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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Defense Ministers' Statement on Gulf

LD0512111390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0855 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Riyadh 5 Dec (SPA)—At the start of the final session, [of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) defense ministers' meeting] GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah read the following statement:

Their highnesses and excellencies the GCC ministers of defense held their ninth session on Tuesday and Wednesday, 17 and 18 Jumada al-Ula, 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 4 and 5 December 1990, at the premises of the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh under the chairmanship of Fahar Bin-Taymur, the deputy prime minister for security and defense in the Sultanate of Oman in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom; His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani, the heir apparent and minister of defense and commander general of the State of Qatar; His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, the defense minister of the United Arab Emirates; His Excellency Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, the defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the stae of Bahrain, and His Excellency Shaykh Nawwaf al- ahmad al-Jabir, the defense minister of the State of Kuwait.

The ministers studied the current situation resulting from the treacherous Iraqi aggression on the State of Kuwait and its occupation and annexation and the destitution of its people and the destruction of their identity and their subjugation to brutal annihilation and persecution.

In this regard, the ministers salute the steadfastness of the sons of Kuwait and their resistance to aggression, highly regard their sacrifices and cherish their cohesion, and appreciate their collective stand challenging ruthlessness and terrorism. They express the unity of the GCC countries in the face of Iraqi aggression and their determination to resist this aggression, and stress that the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation is the primary objective. They are intent on continuing to achieve this objective, are aware of the size of the responsibility, know the consequences, and recall the decisions of their majesties and highnesses that any aggression on any member state of the Council constitutes an aggression on all its member-states. They are aware that the security of the GCC countries is indivisible and that the Iraqi aggression is an aggression on the Council states as a whole and that the Council states have no choice but to resist it, remove it, and expose it before the world.

The ministers hail the Arab, Islamic, and international stand which stood in the face of the aggression, and realized the aggressive nature of the Iraqi regime.

The ministers salute the states of the world which adhered to the decisions of the United Nations Security Council in imposing sanctions on the Iraqi regime. They also appreciate the determination of the international community to liberate Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion, and hail the countries which have contributed to the multinational force and hastened to send their forces to the region to assist the GCC countries to stand in the face of aggression, to thwart it, and to liberate Kuwait and restore legitimacy to it.

The ministers also express their support for the steps taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques, to preserve its security and stability and to protect its national territory and sovereignty.

The ministers stress the importance of continuing the consultation between the Council member states and have decided to leave these meetings open to face up to any eventuality.

The ministers express their appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosque. They express to His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and civil aviation and the inspector general, their profound gratitude and thanks for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements laid down by the Defense Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Afterward, the deputy Omani prime minister for defense and security affairs, His Excellency Fahar Bin-Taymur Al Sa'id delivered a speech in his capacity as chairman of the current session in which he said: It pleases me at the conclusion of our ninth session to express on behalf of all of you our thanks and gratitude to the Saudi Arabian government represented in the person of the second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister and inspector general, Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for playing host for our meetings.

He praised the great welcome and hospitality the delegates received in the Saudi Arabian kingdom. He thanked all the delegates for their fruitful participation in the work of the session.

He then thanked the GCC General Secretariat for all the sincere and constant efforts that it makes to push forward the cause of cooperation. He also expressed his hope to meet with all the delegates in the future under more favorable conditions.

Afterward, he declared the conclusion of the ninth session of the GCC defense ministers.

Depart 5 Dec

LD0512113790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1020 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Dec (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] ministers of defense left Riyadh at noon today after attending the ninth GCC Defense Ministers session which concluded its work before noon today at the premises of the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the heir apparent and defense minister and commander in chief of the State of Qatar; His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, the minister of defense of the United Arab Emirates; His Excellency Faher Bin-Taymur, the deputy prime minister for defense and security affairs in the Sultanate of Oman; and Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, the minister of defense and deputy commander in chief of the State of Bahrain.

They were seen off at the airport by Deputy Minister of Defense and Aviation for Military Affairs 'Uthman al-Hamid, GCC Secretary general 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, General Staff Chief Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, commanders of the various services of the Saudi Armed Forces, and the GCC ambassador to the Kingdom.

Saudi Joint Committee Delegate Meets Mubarak

NC0612104390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Cairo this morning following a visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

While in Cairo, the Saudi minister chaired his country's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers and the Egyptian-Saudi joint committee.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, saw the Saudi minister off and stated that the outcome of the meetings held in Cairo at both the tripartite and bilateral levels was reviewed during President Mubarak's meeting with the Saudi foreign minister. He asserted that views were identical on the issues discussed.

Egypt

'Fresh' Task Force Departs 6 Dec for Emirates

NC0612130190 Cairo MENA in English 1205 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 6 (MENA)—A fresh task force left at noon today for deployment in the United Arab Emirates within a plan by the Armed Forces for the replacement of those troops already arrayed there.

General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, was at the head of other army commanders and senior officers sending off the replacement force.

Gen. Abu-Talib, minister of defense and military production, told the forces before leaving that Egypt as a whole and President Husni Mubarak, as the supreme commander of the armed forces, place their trust in the armed forces and their full perception of the holy task for which they are moving to the Emirates' state.

He also hailed the group of Egyptian troops now stationed in the United Arab Emirates as having been on the highest level of conduct, training and efficiency.

Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, inspected the replacement task force earlier today to make sure of their full readiness to execute any mission entrusted to them.

He was also making sure of the high morale of the members of the force, as well as their combat readiness.

The task force left aboard Air Force planes and under the protection of the Air Force.

Egyptian-Saudi Joint Committee Issues Communique

NC0512165290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] The third round of the meetings of the Egyptian-Saudi joint committee ended today. A communique issued at the conclusion of the meetings pointed out that President Husni Mubarak had received the chairmen of the two sides in the committee and heard their report on the progress made by the committee toward developing and consolidating the fraternal ties of cooperation between the two countries.

The committee reviewed Arab, Islamic, international, and African issues of common interest. The committee also discussed the serious situation resulting from Iraq's continued occupation of Kuwait, as well as the threats it made against Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states that are a flagrant violation of the charters and resolutions of the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the United Nations and thus pose a serious threat to international peace and security. This calls for resorting to all the measures and means stipulated in the UN and Arab League Charters to end this occupation.

The two sides condemned the Iraqi troops' inhuman practices as well as their attempt to change the demographic character in Kuwait, terrify innocent people, take hostages, and violate the immunity of the diplomatic missions in a blatant breach of the international charters and conventions.

The two sides reiterated their backing for the Arab and international resolutions and hoped UN Resolution 678 will prompt the Iraqi leadership to comply with international legitimacy and return to reason, justice, and right. The two sides expressed the belief that President Bush's initiative creates the last chance for removing the danger of war from the region.

The joint committee viewed with appreciation Egypt's firm and strong position in solidarity with its sister Saudi Arabia that reflects a sincere translation of the common view on pan-Arab security.

The two sides expressed their backing and support for the Palestinian people's intifadah to attain their goals of self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia welcomed Lebanon's measures to extend the state's authority over Lebanese territories. The two sides emphasized the need to expedite the procedures for the return of the Arab League General Secretariat to its permanent headquarters in Cairo to serve the interests of the common Arab action. The two countries expressed their satisfaction for concluding the measures for the endorsement of the agreement for economic, trade, and investment cooperation between the two countries.

Two executive agreements were signed in this regard. The first organizes the transportation of cargo and passengers by land and sea, while the second concerns a loan agreement to be extended by the Saudi Fund for Development in the amount of 207 million Saudi riyals to set up a factory for producing sugar from beetroots in the al-Daqahliyah Governorate. The committee expressed satisfaction with the participation of the Saudi Fund for Development in financing agricultural projects worth 94 million Saudi riyals in Sinai as well as in expanding the Cairo-Asyut road with a contribution of 64 million Saudi riyals.

The Egyptian side expressed gratitude for the Saudi assistance extended as part of its aid to the countries affected by the Gulf crisis. This assistance includes urgent aid to the Egyptian Balance of Payments, financing a number of development projects, and writing off the official Egyptian debts to Saudi Arabia.

Speaking at the end of the committee meeting, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, praised the committee's achievements in promoting cooperation between the two countries in all fields. He said an Egyptian-Saudi-Syrian meeting was held in Cairo, thus underscoring the close cooperation among the three countries in serving the interests of the

Arab nation and in underlining their principled positions regarding the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

For his part, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said the critical circumstances we are facing require cooperation to confront the challenges against our nation and against our common interests. He said Iraq's actions resulted in a threat to the entire pan-Arab security, and the stands adopted by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the other fraternal countries laid the groundwork for confronting this threat. He lauded the ties between the two countries and the identical views they have on all aspects.

Saudi Minister Views 'Urgent Aid'

NC0512145690 Cairo MENA in English 1410 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 5 (MENA)—The Saudi Government extended 1.5 billion dollars in urgent aid to Egypt. Of this amount one billion is for consolidating Egypt's balance of payments while the rest is to be earmarked for financing a number of development projects in Egypt.

Addressing the Egyptian-Saudi joint committee, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that his country started to write off Egypt's debts out of the Saudi Government's keenness to contribute to pushing ahead development process in Egypt for the welfare and prosperity of the Egyptian people.

Saudi Ministers Leave Cairo

NC0512200690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1944 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Saudi Minister of Finance and Economy Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl and Minister of Communications Husayn al-Mansuri left Cairo this evening at the end of a visit of several days to Egypt. [passage omitted]

10 'Integration' Agreements Signed With Libya

NC0412140190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1026 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—This morning President Muhammad Husni Mubarak attended a ceremony at the Presidential Palace where 10 agreements for integration [takamul] between Egypt and Libya were signed.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi signed the agreements for Egypt, while Abu-Zayd 'Umar, secretary for the General People's Committee, signed for Libya. Several officials from both sides attended the ceremony.

The 10 agreements are: an agreement on economic integration; an agreement on the prevention of dual taxation; a cultural agreement involving cooperation in matters of education, culture, information, youth care, sports, and scientific research; an agreement on the encouragement of and guarantees for investment; an agreement on the ownership and utilization of real estate and agricultural land; an agreement on insurance and its renewal; a trade and tariffs agreement; an agreement on facilitating vehicle travel; an agreement on travel, residence, and employment; and an agreement on Egyptian companies conducting business in Libya.

Secretary Abu-Zayd 'Umar said that the most important of these agreements is the general agreement for economic integration between the two countries. The rest of these agreements, he said, are executive agreements to ensure the implementation of the general agreement. The goal is to increase the economic and trade exchange between the two countries through the use of local currencies or barter deals.

Abu-Zayd 'Umar added: With the signing of these agreements and their implementation we will have removed all legislative, procedural, and administrative restrictions and obstacles to communication, as well as economic cooperation and integration in all fields, between the citizens of both countries. This measure will help bring the day of unity nearer, a dear objective for all the sons of the Arab people and even more so for the Egyptians and Libyans.

Abu-Zayd 'Umar noted that his talks in Egypt centered on industrial and agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said that the talks between the two delegations were conducted in a climate of cordiality and were inspired by the desire to achieve something beneficial for the two brotherly peoples. Dr. Sidqi said that the increased cooperation between the two countries would further integration, which is our ultimate goal.

The potential for cooperation is great and much can be done to promote the interests of both countries, Dr. Sidqi said. He noted that the agreements are expected to remove all obstacles.

Dr. Sidqi said that integration between the two countries, when achieved, will benefit the people of both countries, particularly in terms of creating jobs.

Dr. Sidqi said that these agreements are just the beginning in the course of integration. Their benefit for the two countries and for the Egyptian people and investors will be considerable. Dr. Sidqi expressed hope for cooperation in more fields other than those covered by the agreements.

Dr. Sidqi also noted that no restrictions have been placed on cooperation with Libya, and that the Libyan side expressed the desire to increase investments in Egypt.

As for the settlement of a million Egyptian citizens in Libya, Prime Minister Sidqi said that this is a process that would require certain preparations prior to implementation, adding that these preparations are already under way.

Dr. Sidqi said that the Egyptians in Libya are being treated well by both the Libyan Government and the people.

Asked if Egyptian-Libyan economic integration is a beginning step to more extensive Arab integration, Prime Minister Sidqi said: We hope so. We in Egypt share the views of all who want this to happen. Dr. Sidqi quoted Abu-Zayd 'Umar as saying that small entities have no place in today's world. If integration between Egypt and Libya were realized it would be a useful integration, but a small one when compared with the mammoth blocs that exist in today's world.

Dr. Sidqi said that any serious Arab country is allowed to participate in this integration and thus widen its scope.

Agreements Detailed

NC0512073590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2207 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—The 10 agreements signed with Libya today in the presence of President Husni Mubarak, at the end of the meetings of the joint higher Egyptian-Libyan committee, set the general framework for implementing the two countries' coordination, cooperation, and integration.

The agreements involve cooperation in the economic and other fields that are of interest to the two countries and strengthen their economic, historic, and cultural ties as well as their neighborly and brotherly relations. They stem from the desire of the two countries' leaderships to enhance this cooperation and coordination and implement the instructions issued by President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at their previous meetings in Matruh, Tobruk, and Sirte.

The economic integration agreement is the most important and comprehensive one among the agreements that were signed by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and his Libyan counterpart Abu-Zayd 'Umar, secretary of the General People's Committee in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. It encourages and develops cooperation in all economic and technical fields in order to achieve integration in various sectors, particularly in [word indistinct], agriculture, irrigation, electricity and energy, petroleum, mining, transportation, communications, construction, housing, trade, finance, tourism, and health.

The first agreement also stipulates the formation of a higher committee between the two countries to be chaired by the Egyptian prime minister and the secretary of the General People's Committee in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and will include a number of Egyptian ministers and secretaries of the Libyan People's Committees. It will meet once every six months, alternating between Egypt and Libya.

This committee will coordinate policies and development-related plans in order to achieve integration between the two sides. It will coordinate the two countries' policies on foreign trade and customs affairs, and adopt the programs for integration in all sectors.

The agreement also includes the exchange of expertise, information, and data in the various sectors it will organize. It will work jointly to integrate and merge similar projects while encouraging companies and establishments in the two countries to set up joint projects that would serve the two sides' joint economic interests.

The trade and customs agreement stipulates the exemption of goods and commodities produced by the two countries from customs duties and tariffs. It encourages the formation of barter deals; banking facilities; customs, health, and veterinary posts; a joint chamber of commerce, industry, and agriculture; and exhibitions in the two countries.

The agreement on ownership and use of real estate and agricultural lands stipulates that the citizens of either of the two countries has the right to own and use these lands in accordance with the laws and conditions set down by the legislature of the two countries.

The agreement on prevention of dual taxation of income defines the areas where it will be applied in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah as well as the means to prevent it.

The agreement on encouraging and guaranteeing investments stipulates the formation of a joint committee to encourage and protect investments which will include representatives from the departments concerned in the two countries. It will discuss the ways and means to encourage investments between the two sides and will work to remove any obstacles that might prevent this. Additionally it will discuss the means of forming and financing joint projects in the two countries. The committee will meet once a year in one of the two countries.

The agreement on regulating the activities of Egyptian companies that will be tasked with implementing projects in the Libyan Jamahiriyah stipulates the formation of executive organs that have the financial and administrative authority to implement these projects swiftly and efficiently.

The agreement on travel, residence, and employment gives the two countries' citizens the right to travel between the two countries with identity cards while guaranteeing the two countries' citizens the right to work and carry out economic activities in the other country.

The agreement on insurance and reinsurance encourages insurance companies in both countries to increase their cooperation in these fields, in particular to set up an effective protection system from the dangers of economic activities while providing the necessary insurance for increasing and strengthening the freedom of movement for people, funds, and goods.

The cultural agreement calls for developing and strengthening the two countries' relations in the field of education, coordinating their educational systems, and working to unify them. The agreement also calls for taking the necessary measures to achieve the integration of the two countries' information organs and establishments in order to emphasize the ties of brotherhood, deepen the common understanding, and monitor the achievements at the bilateral and pan-Arab level. It also calls for deepening cooperation between the two countries' radio and television stations as well as between their press establishments and news agencies, and for encouraging the exchange of visits and the setting up of information weeks and exhibitions.

The agreement also stipulates the printing and publication of cultural books and magazines and calls for cooperation in theater arts, music, film, museums, and cultural palaces in addition to the exchange of visits between sports and scout teams. It also calls for increasing meetings and ties between youth hostels and strengthening relations between sports unions.

The 10th agreement involves facilitating vehicle transit between the two countries.

Ghali Meets Israeli Party Leader, Discusses Gulf

NC0512144390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1416 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, leader of the Degel Hatora movement, who arrived in Cairo yesterday on a three-day visit to Egypt.

During the meeting Dr. Ghali emphasized that Egypt's interest in the Gulf issue will not come at the expense of its interest in the Palestinian issue. Dr. Ghali also stressed the need to work toward establishing a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Ghali Confirms Nationals in Chad Doing 'Well'

NC0312160990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that all the Egyptian experts and other citizens who are working in Chad are well. He said that according to reports received by the Foreign Ministry from our embassy in Ndjamena, the situation has begun to stabilize in the Chadian capital. He noted that the contacts between Cairo and Ndjamena are continuing so that developments in the situation there can be followed.

Advisers Asked To Remain

NC0512163390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the situation in Chad is calm.

In a press statement today Dr. Ghali said the Egyptian ambassador in Ndjamena has been instructed to keep the Egyptian advisers there and to ask them to carry out their work. Dr. Ghali affirmed that this procedure expresses Egypt's friendship with the state of Chad and its people.

Mubarak Casts Vote in Second Round of Elections

NC0612104690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak cast his vote in the second round of People's Assembly elections at the Heliopolis Secondary School for Girls polling station this morning. Mrs. Mubarak also cast her vote there.

The president was received upon arrival by Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa and Cairo Governor Muhammad al-Sharif, and the masses cheered when the president arrived.

Air Defense, Libyan Bureau Heads Appointed

NC0312141190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has issued a presidential decree appointing [Air Defense Force Commander] Lieutenant General Mustafa Ahmad al-Shadhili as head of the Follow-up Bureau in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, following al-Shadhili's retirement from active duty effective 2 December 1990.

President Husni Mubarak has also issued a presidential decree appointing Staff Major General Muhammad Zahir 'Abd-al-Rahman as commander of the Air Defense Forces as of the same date. President Husni Mubarak issued another presidential decree appointing Staff Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Bigatu as chief of staff of the Air Defense Forces.

President Mubarak today received Lt. Gen. Mustafa Ahmad al-Shadhili and Staff Maj. Gen. Muhammad Zahir 'Abd-al-Rahman, the new commander of the Air Defense Forces, at the presidential office. The meeting was attended by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war prodcution.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Hails Idriss Deby

LD0512233290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, 5 December 1990, JANA—The brother leader of the revolution has sent congratulations to brother Idriss Deby in which he said:

Dear brother Idriss Deby,

I am pleased to congratulate you on your splendid triumph over the gang of ignorant people and lackeys; by doing so, you removed a knife which was mercilessly held at the throats of all the Chadians. The revolution of

1 April was, inevitable (?viewed from) everybody with conscience and responsibility, in order to save a people upon whom was imposed suffering and destruction in exchange for purely personal and silly desires. These designs brought together all the foreigners, those worthless people who (?supervised) the affair, the robbers and professional criminals, and they found in the foreign colonialist forces a protector and a supporter. These forces do not care (?for anybody) of the people of Chad and are only concerned with controlling the African continent and practising contempt for blacks, in order to satisfy their sadistic complex, apartheid, and looting of wealth so as to enjoy seeing peoples on their knees before them, begging and in submission. This foreign protection encouraged the criminals of Ndjamena to continue, without taking into account the consequences, to kill the poor Chadian people, make them homeless, and practice blatant violation of the most basic natural human rights. (?As long as?) this is what concerns this vile gang, these things will continue to take place under the protection of the umbrella of its masters who brag about protecting human rights. This is, dear brother, the end of the lackeys, the hangmen of their black peoples, those who are servile in front of the whites.

Dear brother Idriss Deby: We stand today in admiration and respect for the bloody historic epic in which the Iliad of freedom and the permanent brotherhood between the two fraternal peoples were written down with Libyan and Chadian blood. Every inch of Chadian soil was soaked with the blood of your Libyan brothers starting from the Ottoman era, during which we were united in one single state, to the resistance to odious French colonialism and to the support of the heroic struggle of the Frolinat during a quarter of a century against colonialism, its agents, and the deceitful.

The Libyan people never flinched from linking their fate to that of the fraternal Chadian people with sacrifice and blood in good and bad times. At last our joint struggle has been crowned with a clear victory, and I tell you what I have already told Yoweri Museveni in the wake of our joint struggle against the deceitful in Kampala: Those who have laughed much cried in the end, praise be to God, and when comes the help of God, and victory, and thou seest men entering God's religion in throngs, then proclaim the praise of thy Lord, and seek His forgiveness for He turns again unto men. [Koranic verse]

Forward and the revolutionary struggle continues.

Your brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

Nation Opposes 'Any' Move Against Deby Regime

LD0612083790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Dec 90, JANA—Brother Ibrahim al-Bishari, the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, has made a statement to JANA in which he said: The Great Jamahiriyah will not allow anyone, whether Goukouni Oueddei or others, to make any movement against the new regime in Chad. Brother Ibrahim, the secretary of the People's Commitee of the People Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, added that the Great Jamahiryah supports the regime of Idriss Deby.

Foreign Liaison Rejects U.S. Statement on Chad

LD0512193190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Dec (JANA)—The U.S. State Department spokeswoman made a statement on Chad yesterday which expressed the State Department's previous commitment and pointed out what was announced by Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

In reply to the State Department spokeswoman's statement, a responsible source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation made a statement to JANA in which he said: What happened in Chad is a Chadian internal affair and concerns the Chadians themselves. They settled their business with the dictatorship in their country and are free in their national choices and their choice of who should rule them. Libya does not practice the policy of interference in other countries' internal affairs, and thus it denies what was said in the American State Department statement. The statement itself is considered interference in the affairs of an independent state.

Habre Accused of Kidnapping Three Officers

LD0512150890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Nov (JANA)—Brother Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, has hailed the triumph of the Chadian people's will under the leadership of the Chadian People's Front, in particular Idriss Deby.

In a statement during his acceptance of the Tha'irs Mamadugurja credentials, Benin's new ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, Al-Bishari said: "This victory is a victory for Africa, and its dignity that will lead [words indistinct] to peace and stability in this fraternal country, which has suffered from dictatorship and the woes of war [word indistinct]."

He declared that the Great Jamahahiriyah wishes to declare at the same time that the deposed dictator Habre has kidnapped three Libyan officers. They are 'Abd al-Salam Sahban, Muhammad Sharaf al-Din, and Ramadan al-'Arabi.

These men were imprisoned at the Al-Qasr prison. Habre took them hostages and he might even have killed them. He added: We appeal to the friendly Cameroonian Government and its president Paul Biya to work toward safeguarding their lives if they are on Cameroonian territory, and to return them to the Great Jamahiriyah.

We also appeal to human rights organizations and the International Red Cross to do their best to secure the release of these hostages, and to return them to their homeland without delay. If it transpires that Habre has hidden them in another place or has killed them, we will ask Interpol to issue an international order to chase him and arrest him on the grounds that he is a murderer and an international criminal, and to hand him over to the Great Jamahiriyah. My country will establish the best neighborly relations with fraternal Chad within the framework of mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs.

Mauritania

Arrests in Military Follow 'Coup' Attempt

LD0512122290 Paris International Service in French 0635 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] There has been a wave of arrests in military circles in Mauritania: the arrests actually began around the middle of November in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, the country's second largest town. We only learned the news yesterday: according to Amnesty International about 50 people have been arrested in the past three weeks. Carmen Bader asked for explanations from the Mauritanian information minister, who contends that an attempted coup has been foiled. Let us listen to him:

[Begin recording] [Minister] The arrests have all taken place in Nouadhibou and Nouakchott, there have not been any in other towns in the country.

[Bader] What was the reason for these arrests?

[Minister] An attempted coup was planned: it was due to be carried out on 27 November. The perpetrators wanted to take advantage of the movement surrounding the election campaign then underway. The majority of these people are post office workers and servicemen who stated that they received orders from Senegal. This attempt was due to rely mainly on the navy with the participation of other units of the national army. The insurgents were due to take power and in the case of failure it was planned to destroy the maximum number of economic installations and to carry out massacres at popular meetings. To cover their escape, elements (?enlisted on) ships of the national navy. Naturally, the insurgents will be tried: all their defense rights will be guaranteed, they will have the right to lawyers. [end recording]

Blacks Arrested

AB0512160290 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 5 Dec 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] They have apparently uncovered a coup plot in Mauritania. It involves black Mauritanians trying to overthrow what they see as the dominance of Arab rulers. But whether or not there was a coup attempt, there have been a lot of arrests, as (Chei Bakhai) reports in this telex from Nouakchott.

[Begin studio announcer recording] The exact number of people arrested in connection with the alleged coup plot is not known, but the speculation here is that between 200 and 300 blacks have been picked up, and that those arrested are both military and civilian. Mauritanian Minister of Information Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed Sayid claimed that the coup was scheduled for the 27th of last month, the eve of Mauritania's independence. He accused neighboring Senegal of being involved. He claimed that some of those arrested had confessed to this.

Exactly what was supposed to have happened on 27 November is not clear, but people here in Nouakchott talk about a plan to attack a Moroccan [as heard] military base, and then to burn the northern port of Nouadhibou. The coup-makers, it said, also planned to attack an oil refinery and blow up the railway line that transports iron ore from Zouerate in the north to the port of Nouadhibou. .

This is not the first plot involving black Mauritanians in the military. In 1987, more than 50 black Mauritanians were arrested in connection with a coup attempt. Three officers were executed. Others were sentenced to jail terms. The Mauritanian Government believes that the agitation of black Africans is being whipped up by elements in France and Senegal. There, an organization called FLAM [African Liberation Forces of Mauritania] accuses the Mauritanian Government of racism, and calls for the establishment of a government in which blacks would have a major say. FLAM opposes the acceleration of Arabization in Mauritania, which is being promoted by the current Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. [end recording]

Amnesty International Comments

AB0512092690 Paris AFP in English 0642 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Dakar, Dec 5 (AFP)—Amnesty International reported Tuesday that about 50 Mauritanian military and civilian government employees had been arrested over the past three weeks. The London-based human rights-monitoring organization said the arrests had occurred in Nouakchott, the Mauritanian capital, and Nouadhibou, the second city. Independent sources reached from Senegal in Nouakchott said the number of people arrested might be considerably higher than Amnesty's estimate.

Tensions between Mauritania's Arab majority and its black minority have been exacerbated since a border dispute with Senegal, which is mostly black, flared in April last year. Amnesty said the arrested persons might have been suspected of contacts with black Mauritanians who fled to Senegal.

A Nouakchott source said some of the hundreds of people jailed for links with an opposition groups that published in 1986 the "Manifesto of the Oppressed Negro-Mauritanian" have been rearrested recently.

Morocco

Government Issues Statement on General Strike

LD0512225490 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] The council of government held a meeting today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki. The meeting discussed the social and economic conditions in the country. The Information Ministry issued a statement which said:

At the beginning, council heard and studied a report submitted by Mouilay Zine Zahidi, minister delegate at the Prime Minister's Office in charge of economic affairs and privatization, and Labor minister Abbadi Hassan on the preliminary results of the contacts made by them recently on behalf of the government with various economic and social interlocutors. The council noted the calm atmosphere in the which the preliminary contacts were made and examined the demands made by the trade unions, and in view of the diversity and complexity of the points raised, it decided to make efforts to reach solutions on which consultations have been made between employers and trade unions which are achievable.

In this context, and in line with the policy pursued since 1956 until now, and while reaffirming its firm determination to continue the dialogue and adhere to consultation, the government has specified a clear spirit and framework of the ways and means which will be employed to ensure the success of this endeavor:

1. The prime minister will preside over the ministerial committee which will continue an indepth study of claims. The committee, which, in addition to the prime minister, will include the interior minister, the finance minister, the minister of commerce and industry, the minister of labor, the minister delegate at the Prime Minister's Office in charge of economic affairs and privatization, and the minister delegate at the Prime Minister's Office in charge of administrative affairs, will hold meetings with trade unions and employers from 8 December.

2. While reaffirming its firm desire to seek suitable solutions, the government believes that no dialogue would be useful if it is held under pressure or threat of strike.

3. The government, which respects constitutional, legal, and organizational stipulations which regulate social disputes, is eager to recall on this occasion that resorting to a general strike does not conform and is not in line with the customs and traditions upheld in democratic countries. Therefore, the declaration of a general strike cannot be accepted.

In addition to that, the government is eager to remind everyone that the public service law and the requirements of normal and continuous progress of vital public concerns do not allow that in effect and by law. The government will be eager to safeguard the freedom of work which is guaranteed by law.

4. The Moroccan Government, confident of the spirit of dialogue which it is pursuing, reaffirms its determination to employ every legitimate means available to it to protect the freedom of work and public order from any harm or disturbance. To this end, the government brings to the notice of all citizens that any action or attempt that aims at undermining the public order or harming the citizens' peace of mind will expose the perpetrator or perpetrators to the punishments stipulated by law.

5. Finally, in the context of responsible dialogue which will be opened by the public authorities with the various economic and social interlocutors, his majesty's government invites trade unions and economic and vocational organizations to submit their demands in a thorough way and with figures in all the sectors which concern national activity so that they could be examined with the required seriousness, objectivity, and realism. The ministerial committee's meetings will be held under the chairmanship of the prime minister with trade unions, employers, and economic and vocational organizations at the premiership headquarters from December, at 1000 in the morning.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Receives Saddam Message on Gulf

EA0512144690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 5 December (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, received a message from the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with the recent development in the Gulf crisis. The message was delivered to Gen. al-Bashir by the member of the Iraqi Command Council and the Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi who arrived here yesterday on a short visit to the country.

The Iraqi official in a press statement has described the separation of the so-called the region [as received] particularly the Palestinian question, as unacceptable confirming that the Iraqi side to the expected meeting on the Gulf problem between Iraq and USA will propose the discussing of all the problems of the region. All the Arab and Muslim masses are supporting the Iraqi position, Dr. Hammadi confirmed. He said Iraq will strongly defend itself against the American build-up in the Gulf which threatens all the area.

Dr. Hammadi has also held a closed-door meeting with the RCC member, chairman of the economic committee, Colonel Salah al-Din. The Iraqi official, accompanied by the head of the Arab department of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, Sa'd Qasim Hamundi, were received at the airport by the RCC member Col. Salah and the RCC secretary general 'Abd-al-rahim Husayn.

Bahrain

Defense Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia

NC0512175090 Manama WAKH in English 1236 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Manama, Dec 5 (GNA)—Bahraini Defence Minister and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah and his accompanying delegation returned home from Riyadh today after heading the Bahraini delegation to the GCC defence ministers meeting which was concluded earlier today.

The GCC defence ministers issued a statement in which they welcomed the steadfastness of the Kuwaiti people against the Iraqi aggression and underlined the Arab, Islamic and international resolve to free Kuwait.

They also expressed their support to Saudi Arabia's measures to protect its security, stability and sovereignty.

Kuwait

Peaceful Settlement Dependent on 'Basic Rules'

PM0512093190 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 3 Dec 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Rules of Peace"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] No one disagrees that peace in the Gulf is an objective sought by all, and we are in the forefront in that regard. And no one denies that that liberating Kuwait peacefully is a thousand times better than liberating it through war, because that would spare the region many dangers. It would also spare Kuwait itself numerous possibilities of destruction. So peace is an objective on which the world as a whole agrees. And if all doors to the peace option are closed, resorting to the military option is also a means to achieve regional peace for the Gulf and general peace for the world as a whole.

But what sort of peace do we want or are we seeking to achieve? The concept of that peace differs completely from the concept spoken about loudly by the dictator of Iraq when he claims that he is willing to discuss a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis.

So if U.S. President Bush's initiative represents the last chance for peace in the Gulf, the peace we intend here is the peace of truth, justice, and security before anything else.

And in order to dot the i's and cross the t's, it is essential in this fateful phase of the Gulf crisis to determine the rules for the desired peace, none of whose clauses or elements can be abandoned. The following pillars must be secured for that peace:

First, Iraqi withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territory without forfeiting a single inch, proceeding from Kuwait's national sovereignty over its entire territory and from a basic international reality, namely that the aggressor must not be rewarded for his aggression with any gains or spoils, great or small;

Second, the conclusive restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy so that the conditions of 1 August can be restored in Kuwait, to enable the family of good under the Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and heir apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah to continue the march of development and cultural building;

Third, Iraq's commitment to paying compensation for all the damage caused by its brutal aggression, including the looting, plunder, destruction, and ruination;

Fourth, the unconditional release of all the hostages detained by Iraq in an unprecedented operation of piracy;

Fifth, the provision of guarantees to prevent a repetition of the aggression and end the atmosphere of security threats to all the Gulf states created by Iraqi military deployments linked to its expansionist and aggressive intentions against all the region's states.

These are the most important basic rules for any peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. And this was expressed by U.S. President Bush when he announced his initiative. He linked it to unwillingness to make any concessions, compromises, or partial solutions. This was also emphasized by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle when he stressed that the initiative did not mean negotiating but, rather, forcing the ruler of Baghdad to implement peacefully all the Security Council resolutions.

We seek peace and do not fear it. In fact we adhere to it so long as it is within the framework of the rules about which we, and the entire world with us, care.

Diplomacy Has 'Upper Hand' in Gulf Until 15 Jan

PM0512125990 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 3 Dec 90 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Political Noose Tightens Pending Military Option"]

[Excerpts] In an unsurprising step, U.S. President George Bush has offered what seems to be the last olive branch to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. This happened less than 24 hours after the Security Council's adoption of a resolution authorizing the use of force to end the illegitimate Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, restore Kuwaiti legitimacy, release the remaining Western hostages, and finally guarantee stability in the Gulf region and secure the world economy's lifeline. [passage omitted]

A deliberate reading of the U.S. moves will clearly reveal that they have passed through three distinctive phases. The first was the political deterrence phase, and this started with the U.S. military presence in the early days of the invasion of Kuwait. It was characterized by talk about military deterrence before all the means for it were actually available.

The second phase was the military deterrence phase proper, although the the U.S.-European move appeared to be political in nature.

These two phases have passed. They included a number of side issues which almost diverted attention from the main issue—the occupation. We mean here the hostage issue, the refugees issue, economic embargo problems, the situation at foreign embassies in Kuwait, the air blockade, and so on. The scene also witnessed during that period direct political moves and mediations (Primakov) and indirect moves (Brandt, Nakasone, and others) with a view to probing and exploring potential angles of thinking.

But today, after the Security Council resolution, a new and third phase begins. Unlike the other phases, its start (last Thursday) [November 29] and finish (15 January) are specified. It is the prewar phase or the prewithdrawal phase, that is withdrawal without war.

And we cannot imagine this phase without political and diplomatic moves. On the contrary, this period can only be full of political moves. So diplomacy will have the upper hand. This is because Baghdad has exhausted its endeavors to escalate threats as a means to avoid military confrontation and secure a political solution loaded with spoils. [passage omitted]

Bush's step has guaranteed for the U.S. President widespread support inside Congress, even from his most intransigent Democratic rivals. It has also won widespread international support, which is a new asset to be added to the international authorization stipulated in the Security Council resolution. This step has also led to a tightening of the noose around Iraqi diplomatic efforts to break the international isolation by playing the hostage card with which Iraq has tried to preoccupy the world over the past month. [passage omitted]

In view of the current situation, it can be said that Saddam will try to secure a gain to alleviate the impact of the political defeat resulting from withdrawal from Kuwait if he senses the impact of the military defeat which would result from his expulsion by force.

Ugandan Emissary Delivers Message to Amir

EA0412100090 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The minister of state for foreign and regional affairs, Daniel Omara Atubo, has met the leader of the Kuwait Government-in-exile, the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, at al-Ta'if in Saudi Arabia. Omara Atubo conveyed warm greetings and handed to the amir a special message from President Yoweri Museveni, who is also the current chairman of the OAU.

During the meeting, Mr. Omara Atubo reiterated Uganda's position on the Gulf crisis, its condemnation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and demand for her unconditional withdrawal. In this light Uganda, he added, has consistently supported the resolutions passed by the Security Council and the organizational Islamic Conference [as heard]. The minister also emphasized that the OAU under the chairmanship of President Yoweri Museveni was one of the first international organizations to condemn the invasion and called upon Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait. He added that Uganda and the OAU, even at this late hour, hope that a peaceful resolution to the conflict will be achieved, as the opposite will have catastrophic consequences to the Gulf states and regions far beyond.

Oman

Deputy Premier Returns From Riyadh GCC Meeting

NC0512173090 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] His Highness Fahar Bin-Taymur al-Sa'id, the deputy prime minister for security and defense, and his delegation returned to Muscat from Riyadh this afternoon after taking part in the ninth meeting of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] ministers of defense. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Receives Message From Ugandan President

NC0512123190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1137 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 5 Dec (MENA)—Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a message from Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni which deals with Arab-African cooperation and ways of strengthening it. Uganda is the current OAU chairman.

The message was delivered by Daniel Omara Atuba, Ugandan minister of state for foreign affairs during his meeting with Shaykh Zayid today. [passage omitted]

President Receives Kuwaiti Conference Delegation

NC0512132990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 5 Dec (WAKH)—Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, today received a delegation from the Kuwaiti popular conference, which is currently visiting the Emirates. [passage omitted]

Reiterates Stand on Iraqi Occupation

NC0512153190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1355 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Dec (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has reiterated its firm and principled stand in its firm insistence on Iraq's withdrawal from

Kuwait and on the reinstatement of the legitimacy under Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

During his meeting with a delegation from the Kuwaiti popular conference in Abu Dhabi today, UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan said the State of Kuwait will be free again, as it was before the oppressive Iraqi occupation. He noted that the liberation of Kuwait is an issue of fate to the international community in assertion of the principle which decrees that the aggressor should not be allowed to benefit from his aggression, to maintain the stability of the region and of the international legitimacy.

The Kuwaiti delegation briefed his highness the UAE president on the conference's role and plan of action now and in future.

Saddam Calls for Release of All Foreigners

JN0612125390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1138 GMT 6 Dec 90

["Text" of President Saddam Husayn's message to the National Assembly speaker and members on 6 December—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr. National Assembly speaker, members: Peace be upon you. Under difficult conditions, the strength of the believers' affiliation and loyalty is put to the test. Their action in the service of principles is also put to the test. Iraqis in general, and you amongst them, have proved that on very dark nights the spark of faith glows in a much nicer way than on ordinary nights. Adherence to the supreme principles governing the relation between man and his creator and his duty toward Him, as well as the relation between the Iraqis with all peoples, becomes even stronger in the more difficult circumstances.

And, just as the continued endeavor is required on earth, the correct answers to the continuous test are also required, without making the test or success in it dependent on a certain phase and time.

On the basis of these principles and what we desire—that the influence of the believers expands, and that the knowledge of mankind in general expands with the believers' principles and the truth of their mission—we believe that, this time, the National Assembly is asked to take a decisive and final decision concerning a humanitarian issue, which you, and the whole world, know about.

National Assembly members, the thing that worries the faithful mujahid [struggler], the honorable struggler, and the brave fighter—who has the values of the chivalrous believer—most is when the trenches in the battle arena get mixed and when some people—who do not want to fight and who are not among the evildoers—get trapped in the space between the two trenches. This worry becomes deep grief when that kind of people are harmed because of the level and type of the conflict.

The foreigners who were prevented from traveling are among those people in the battle between right, led by Iraq's great people and valiant Armed Forces, and evil, whose failing mass is led by Bush, the enemy of God. As you and my brothers in the leadership know, I realize that, despite what they had to put up with, denying those people the freedom to travel has rendered a great service to the cause of peace. And, because God has taught us that forbidden things should never be resorted to except in very urgent cases and without any excesses, we must not keep these emergency measures, especially this measure, any longer.

The days, weeks, and months through which our people and nation have passed have been such that our options, even those concerning the nature and form of defense, were not open or without limits in every area and all conditions. For instance, our valiant forces did not have the chance to complete their concentrations in order to confront the possibilities of military aggression against them in the Kuwaiti governorate. So, any measure that was taken to delay the war may not have been correct from the humanitarian and practical standpoints and under established norms, but it has provided an opportunity for us to prepare for any eventuality.

We have now reached the time when, with God's care, our blessed force has become fully prepared, if God wills that we should fight in defense of His values and ideals against the infidels, profligates, and traitors, and also in defense of the great national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian gains.

Gentlemen: Good people, men and women of different nationalities and political trends, have come to Iraq. Dear brothers from Jordan, Yemen, Palestine, Sudan, and the Arab Maghreb have also consulted with us on this issue, as on others. We have felt, guided by our humanitarian feelings, that the time has come to make a firm decision on this subject. We had considered a timing different from the present one; namely, the occasion of Christmas and New Year, which are of special significance to Christians in the world, including Christians in the West.

However, the appeal by some brothers, the decision of the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate, and the European Parliament's invitation to our foreign minister for dialogue; all these have encouraged us to respond to these good, positive changes—changes that will have a major impact on world public opinion in general, and U.S. public opinion in particular, in restraining the evil ones who are seeking and pushing for war as the option they have chosen out of their evil tendencies and premeditated intentions to do harm.

In view of all this, we have found that the exigencies that permitted the impermissible, and thus prevented the travel of foreigners, have weakened and have been replaced by something stronger; namely, this positive change in public opinion, including the change in U.S. public opinion, which will constitute a restraint on the intentions and decisions of the evil ones, who are led in their evil intentions and steps by the enemy of God, Bush.

Therefore, I call on you, brothers, to make your just decision and allow all foreigners on whom restrictions were placed to enjoy the freedom of travel and to lift these restrictions, with our apologies for any harm done to anyone of them. God, the Almighty, grants forgiveness.

Brothers, I ask you, and through you I ask the Iraqi people and our brave Armed Forces, to maintain your alertness and vigil because the armies of aggression are still on our holy lands, in the Arabian Peninsula, and the evil ones are talking of war. Bush's invitation for talks, as far as we can discern, has continued to bear the possibilities of the inclination toward aggression and war. The buildup is growing.

Therefore, the steadfast believers, both on the level of the public and on the level of our Armed Forces, should not fall in the trap in which some have fallen in the past.

May God protect you and protect our people and nation, steer humanity from what God hates, help the faithful to carry out what God wishes, and smite the infidels and traitors after exposing them and their shameful deeds. He is the best supporter and backer. God is great, accursed be the infidels and traitors, who gave the oppressors and infidels the opportunity to invade the holy land.

Glory and greatness to the mujahidin of the occupied land and all the steadfast mujahidin and fighters of our great Arab nation.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, Thursday, 18 Jumada al-'Ula, 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 6 December 1990.

National Assembly To Hold Session 7 Dec

JN0612141990 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1403 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: The following announcement has been issued by the National Assembly:

The National Assembly will hold an ordinary session at 1100 [0800 GMT] tomorrow, Friday, 19 Jumada al-Ula 1411 hegira, corresponding to 7 Decemeber 1990. Members of the Assembly are kindly requested to be present at the given time.

[Signed] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

Nation Offers To Release 41 Japanese Hostages

OW0612125890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1242 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 6 KYODO—Iraq has offered to release five Japanese residents in addition to 36 of the 114 Japanese hostages held by Baghdad, Japanese parliamentarian Antonio Inoki said Thursday.

Inoki, now in Baghdad in an effort to win the release of Japanese hostages, told reporters Iraqi leaders have made the offer.

Those to be released include 36 hostages and five residents of Iraq out of 119 Japanese businessmen barred from leaving Iraq, he said.

Inoki, a popular pro wrestler, previously said 36 Japanese hostages would be released after meeting 'Uday Saddam Husayn, son of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Sa'di Mahdi Salih, chairman of the Iraqi National Assembly.

Iraq has been holding 114 Japanese nationals in Baghdad and occupied Kuwait as human shields against possible attack by the U.S.-dominant multinational force assembled in the Persian Gulf region, and has barred 119 other Japanese residents from leaving the country.

In Tokyo, the Foreign Ministry said it is considering sending a government-chartered special plane to Baghdad to bring back the Japanese hostages, along with Inoki.

A Japan Airlines DC-10 will leave Narita Airport for Amman, Jordan, at 6:00 A.M. saturday and will return home that evening, the ministry said.

Japanese Nationals Allowed To Leave With Wives

JN0612130590 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 6, INA—President Saddam Husayn has instructed to allow travel of Japanese nationals hosted by the Iraqi people with their wives who attended the world peace festival from Iraq, in appreciation of peace and the humanitarian motives.

The wives who attended the festival had been subjected to bids of threat and intimidation exercised by the hostile organs to ban them from attending the festival under alleged dangers.

However, the order to allow the Japanese nationals to leave was not attributed to any mediation, but was in response to a request of their wives.

Wives of British Nationals Arrive in Baghdad

JN0512215090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Twenty-four wives of British nationals hosted by the Iraqi people arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit of several days to Iraq. Mrs. (Kate Patriots Lewis), the leader of the group, said in a statement to the INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] correspondent that they came to Iraq with a message of love and peace for the Iraqi people. She added that the British women brought infants' milk as a simple gift for the children of Iraq and as an expression of anger and condemnation over the unjust economic blockade imposed on the children and people of Iraq.

Saddam Addresses European Parliament Members

JN0512181990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1707 GMT 5 Dec 90

["Text" of President Saddam Husayn's address to a European Parliament delegation in Baghdad on 5 December—read by announcer]

[Text] We thank God—to whom is ascribed all majesty and perfection—because he has not removed the attributes of mercy and humanity from the hearts of the faithful, and has made the faithful constantly remember that for their duty to be complete, they should always bear in mind their duty toward humanity. Thus was the arrival of the gentlemen in Baghdad to declare their support for the people of Iraq and their right cause and to reject injustice. I believe beyond doubt that such an action pleases God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your endeavor to support Iraq matches the above description, and your request for us to do something to lift restrictions of travel on our guests also matches the above description, because they are indeed our guests, except for the limitation on travel.

It is certain—and in appreciation of your position and for all the men who share this position in Europe—that we should do something. There are many things that hurt us in such an ordeal. Among the most important things that hurt us is the following: How can European politicians not understand the future the way they should or deal with the present in the right manner which guarantees the future of Europe? I do not want to add anything to the overall description by the deputy speaker, nor to cross anything out of it, to say that this is our position in regard to the relationship of the Arabs to Europe. Part of the analysis is that we do not hate America but that we love humanity, our people, and our nation. Therefore, we reject the harm that America is inflicting on humanity, our people, and our nation.

I will explain precisely to the gentlemen here how the Iraqis think now. The Iraqis do not even hate their enemy when they confront it in the battlefield; but, they hate behavior that is unacceptable to God. They do not hate any human being; in fact, they think that they have a human duty to rectify the deviation of deviators and they pray God to help them confront the evil of evildoers and the mistakes of those who make mistakes. You notice, therefore, that as soon as the eight-year Iraq-Iran war came to a halt, it was as if nothing had happened, by way of utilizing any idea or step that serves humanity and the interaction between our two countries. In fact, we do not hate even Bush and Thatcher; we have resisted the devil that possessed them. No matter how bad man's actions might get, we still entertain the hope that man will retain in a corner of his being something good that can benefit humanity.

When we talk of our deep love for humanity, for the sons of our nation, and for the sons of our people, we have at the same time a strong determination to face any attempt to threaten, intimidate, or brandish the use of brute force whatever its source.

Therefore, you see that all these concentrations—the ones that have already arrived and the ones on their way here—have not caused our eyes or those of any of the Iraqis to twitch. What makes us unable to sleep is when we discover that any of our actions, no matter how unimportant, departs from the right path. On the basis of this fact or stand, you see that we embrace any sound idea even if it is extended by a simple worker in our society or by a politician with no prominent standing in other societies. However, we reject any club, no matter how heavy when brandished by the Bush-led idols. What guarantees legitimate interests among people and honest ties among nations is not threats, the use of force, or bribes, but the building of a human bridge based on love. The foundations of this bridge should be dialogue, and interaction through dialogue, to attain a common understanding and solutions based on conviction. This is what guarantees the legitimate interests among nations and, consequently, between Europe and the Arabs.

The Bush administration does not want to make sure that the legitimate interests in the relations of the United States with peoples of the region are not being jeopardized. It wants to create illegitimate interests for many parties at the expense of the interests of peoples of the region. It wants to dominate the area people so as to be able to dominate Europe, Japan, and, consequently, all of mankind. This is what Bush said in his speech to the U.S. Congress in the first month of the Gulf crisis. He said that America must lead the world because it possesses the power that qualifies it to lead the world. In response, I said to him: You have forgotten God and wisdom, and forgotten to stress the importance of faith in God for those who seek leadership. You have also forgotten the need for wisdom by those who should take the lead, and you have highlighted only the element of power. But power, when it is not based on rightfulness, has no significance regardless of the general technical description.

What we want is to see understanding rather than fighting prevail in the world. Inasmuch as we wish to see all peoples of the region achieve well being, we want to see politicians in the United States not forcing their will on others but interacting with others. We do not wish to see them seeking to impose illegitimate interests, but to entrench the legitimate interests whose basis is dialogue. We see nothing more elevated than legitimacy. There is nothing that guarantees interests and their durability than interests that are built on the basis of dialogue, conviction, and love. However, interests based on oppression, domination, and oneupmanship vanish when these factors become weaker. Only the interests that are based on conviction, love, and equality between the parties to the interests survive. This is what we want for Europe's relations with the Arab homeland and the Arab nation. This is the type of relations we want between the Arab nation and the Islamic nation and with all mankind without exception.

Therefore, we deeply feel and sense that our struggle is not only a pan-Arab and national struggle, but a humanitarian struggle most of all. It is a struggle that defends the freedom of those present and the deputy chairman, for example. Is it not a strange paradox that some politicians in Europe, who have carried the torch of freedom for a long time, attempt to prevent anyone who wants to come here, to talk, learn, and understand to use this information so that he can learn the views of others and use them in the service of humanity? Is this not a strange paradox? Does not this, and other things that you and we know, mean that the colonialism some Western administrations want, especially the Bush administration, by which to deal unilaterally with the world, has begun not only economically, but politically, ideologically, and culturally in Europe?

For politics to be described as humanitarian, does it mean that humanitarianism should be applied only within the country involved, or that dialogue, opinion, and counter-opinion should suffice within the country involved? Or does it mean that for national politics to be humanitarian, it must be dealt with in accordance with one criteria inside and outside the country?

From here, we proceed to a humanitarian issue. All of you know its meaning and watch it on television on a daily and detailed basis. How can we, Arabs, feel secure that humanity is in good health in Europe when we see that the Palestinians are being massacred and their dignity taken away from them in even the simplest details on a daily basis inside their homeland by the occupier? Nevertheless, Europe continues to watch this dramatic scene without doing much. How can we feel secure and how can others feel secure that humanity is in good health when we see this alliance between the West in general, and between the most backward pillars among the Arab rulers in their ruling systems, such as autocratic governments, and on the social, educational, and general behavior levels? How can we and others feel secure while we witness this alliance between those who talk about the progressive concepts of the world, as they claim, and the most backward circles in Arab society, against the most aspiring, developed, and humanitarian circles in Arab society?

Does this alliance, which is led by the Bush administration and which some governments in the West are falling in line with, not create a scandal about all the principles and slogans that are advocated in Europe in defense of liberty, democracy, and human rights, especially if this alliance is turned into an alliance to vanquish humanity in the Arab homeland?

In Iraq, as you have noticed, the siege has reached infants' milk, food, and medicine, contrary to all heavenly doctrines and human laws on this earth.

Notice, for example, how the president of the country that considers itself the number one country in terms of belief in dialogue and freedom, refuses to hold dialogue with others and continues to refuse for a period of four months. When he finds that his position has become critical, not according to humanitarian criteria outside the United States but according to the requirements of rule in the United States, he agrees to hold a dialogue.

In addition, he said yesterday that he had not endorsed talks to initiate negotiations, but rather to merely inform Iraq of the viewpoint of the UN Security Council [UNSC], or of the resolution passed by the UNSC, and the other UNSC resolutions. Note the double-standard dealing shown in the perception of concepts. The U.S. President accepts dialogue with Congress. But he opposes dialogue with any human party outside the United States of America, except when this becomes a prerequisite for governing. Hence, these slogans are not among the prerequisites of humanity to the people who are upholding them. They are being upheld to meet prerequisites of governing. There is a difference between a slogan upheld to meet the prerequisites of governing, no matter how beautiful it might look, and a slogan that is upheld to achieve humanitarian objectives.

At the outset of our talk today, and on several previous occasions, we have said and continued to say and declare that the human bridge for equitable human ties among nations and peoples is based on the acceptance of an equitable dialogue among the parties concerned. Hence, what we seek in our ties with those who represent other peoples and nations is to see a thorough dialogue launched and uniform standards observed when all issues are considered. People should not view things through double standards and balances. Therefore, we do not wish to see President Bush play the role of an informing policeman. What we hope is to see him play the role of a good interlocutor who would be willing to correct his mistake, accept a sound idea, and exhaust the mind and intellect to convince the other party of his ideas that he might think are sounder.

The president of a state that claims to be free and democratic does not have the right to turn into an informing policeman at the the UNSC. He has to seek dialogue. This is what Iraq wants. Iraq will not retreat from this. Iraq wants dialogue. It does not want to be informed of orders. It wants persuasion through dialogue and not the adoption of unjust resolutions imposed on it. This is the sound approach.

If President Bush or his representative comes to us in the shape of an informing policeman, this means that they have used the talks as a mere cover to subsequently convince the U.S. Congress that they have made their peaceful effort with Iraq. When they fail to achieve what the informing policeman wants, they will say their mission has reached a dead end. But if Bush or his representative comes to us in the shape of an interlocutor, this means that they really want peace.

On my way to this hall to receive you, the information minister told me that the Democratic majority in the U.S. House of Representatives issued a declaration urging Bush not to engage in a military action without prior Congressional approval. If what I heard is true, I, on behalf of the people of Iraq, hail this spirit in the U.S. Congress because it tells me that there are people in Congress who feel a deep sense of responsibility and that there are those who value humanitarian considerations in such a serious decision. Please convey my greetings to the Pope, say hello to him, and relay to him my wishes for God to grant him success in every step that he takes to achieve peace and serve mankind. You are most welcome. I am pleased to meet you. We wish you success.

Saddam Addresses Christian Conference Participants

JN0512202990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1919 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn to the "Christian Peace Conference" participants on 5 December—recorded]

[Text] I am extremely happy to meet with this noble group of Christian men of religion. All of you, it seems, are Arabs. I understand the sublime values for the sake of which you have chosen Baghdad as the venue of your conference. Baghdad is the city of Arabism, humanity, and peace. It was founded, as you know, on a basis of dignity, glory, humanity, and peace. Baghdad was built to serve as a shining minaret, whose light has spread thoughout the earth in the name of God. Since its construction, Baghdad has never been for itself alone. It has been a human mission to all of mankind. Today, Baghdad is playing the same role, but in another age and under different circumstances. Baghdad's role now stems from that of the past, seeking to serve mankind on the basis of faith in God Almighty. When a conference of Christian theologians is held, this has human, religious, and profound pan-Arab values of which we are completely aware, and which we fully appreciate.

You, and everyone else know that here in Iraq, in Baghdad, all are free to choose the faith they want. All here are free in their religion and the tenets they believe in. We reject discrimination in the one society, because this will place this society in a state of contradiction and dispute as happens in other societies. All Iraqis here work together, build together, and pray to God to safeguard Iraq and humanity. They, together, fight injustice if there is a need. As you know and as you recall, in the history of the Arabs there is a large body of evidence on how the Arabs fought in defense of the higher values and the homeland; they stood in the trenches although their religions were different.

By meeting in Baghdad at this admirable level in which an elite of religious men are gathering, you express a high degree of faith in a tangible manner. That is why your resolutions came to openly and unmistakably express this nobility: You reject injustice and you appreciate how sound universal relations among human beings should be.

In our meeting today with a group of European politicians, we said that there was a difference between true human slogans and the prerequisites for governing which might in form fall in line with the human slogans upheld.

When some people talk of their respect for the opinion of a country's majority, it is not sufficient for us to confer a human cover on such talk or even such conduct unless the slogan is not used for the purpose of meeting the prerequisites of governing. We will do so if we realize that such talk or conduct is propelled by purely humanitarian motives. If we are to test it, we have to know whether this slogan will be upheld with the same firmness, the same meanings, and the same spirit outside the homeland.

When U.S. officials speak of human rights in their country, or of freedom and democracy in their country, we view this talk as sincere, because this falls within the confines and prerequisites of governing in the United States. He who does not advocate this type of cause in the United States cannot run for a seat in the House of Representatives or Senate. Likewise, he cannot obtain a senior position. But when conduct in accordance with such principles goes beyond the United States to include the world, we will then say that the slogan is a humanitarian one, that the conduct is a humanitarian one, rather than a domestic one dictated by the circumstances of governing.

If we are to briefly review various pieces of evidence from actual reality, we would then find how U.S. officials fall into clear contradiction in what they say and what they do, especially when the issue concerns all of mankind rather than the requirements of governing their country.

As the chairman of the conference has said: Let us take the most glaring example of injustice, an example concerning oppressed Palestine and occupied Jerusalem, which does not only involve the close kinfolk who want to rid it of painful fetters but also cries out for help to the conscience of mankind wherever there is a sentient conscience able to feel human sentiments properly.

Since 1967 Jerusalem has been shackled with chains. This is the Jerusalem that should be free as a result of the spiritual heritage and symbolism it carries.

As for Sudan, whose people are a part of the human family and the human race, the information we have at our disposal indicates that unless it receives food assistance, a million or part of a million might starve to death. I have been told one million people.

Why are these sums that are spent on evil, bribery, bad deeds, and desecration not spent on food to save the hungry? You all know how the siege on Iraq has reached the stage that food, medicine, and infants' milk is prevented from reaching the Iraqis. This is something that has not been stipulated in the positive laws the UN Charter can boast about. The UN Charter contains nothing that says food and medicine should be used as a political tool. What is stipulated is the exact opposite. It is stipulated that food and medicine should not be used in politics; in other words, no blockade.

You know that even prisoners, even prisoners—armed men who fall into captivity—should not be deprived of food, medical care, and medicine. This is agreed upon by all heavenly doctrines and by all just, positive human laws. However, we see that unjust people have a different definition.

The true humanitarian position is your position, your position [repeats himself]. You come here under these difficult circumstances; you meet in Baghdad and speak the words of justice. This is the correct stand. This is a stand we are proud of. We thank God that it has come from Arabs. Men of religion, yes, but in addition they are Arabs.

The meaning behind this is great and deep for our nation and Arab people all over as a result of its policy, stand, and unity. It is a great, historic stand that serves the whole of humanity. We do not place pan-Arabism and nationalism in a position of conflict between us and the wide scope of humanity. Never. We always place pan-Arabism and nationalism at the service of larger humanity. Wherever man exists, he originates from the tree that God the almighty wanted to exist after Adam and Eve.

Human beings differ only in the degree of closeness to or distance from the God of the heavens and the earth.

We thank God, who has made us feel happy with the position you have taken. We hope to God that you will hear only tidings about your Baghdad that will make you feel proud of it for its noble humanitarianism. I welcome you. God bless you and help you in your mission. [applause]

Deliberations Continue

JN0612060390 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 5 Dec 90

[All names as received]

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 5, INA—Christian church leaders taking part in a three-day peace conference here denounced the threat to use force against Iraq.

The Christian peace conference, which raises the motto "Blessed be the Peacemakers" calls for establishing peace all over the world and denounces the logic of using force against the Iraqi people.

During the second Tuesday session, Archibishop Gewargis Sliwa of the Assyrian Church of the East, said that the military buildup in the Gulf region is blocking the path of peace which is the "spiritual food of human life". He said "God has created this earth for human beings to live on in peace not to ruin it".

He added, "We all must protect the earth from warmongers and oil gangs":

He urged the world community to adopt President Saddam Husayn's peace plan of August 12 which, he said, opens the door for a peaceful settlement of all Middle East problems.

Israel, he added, has occupied Palestine and committed many crimes against the Palestinian people in their land. "Can the Security Council issue a resolution to bar food and medicine reaching the Israeli aggressors? He asked. "We should not give up work for peace but to work hard and hold more gatherings in various countries of the world till the whole of humanity enjoys peace and justice", Archibishop Sliwa stressed.

Archbishop Matti Matoka of the Syrian Catholic Church of Baghdad said that everybody knows that the US Administration is beating the drums of war and escalating tension in the whole world.

"At this time while Iraq is facing foreign threats and economic blockade, it is our duty to raise our voice against the use of force and against the language of arms", said the archbishop.

"Christianity denounced those who are escalating war. A true Christian should work for love and peace in accordance with words of the Bible: "How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the peace, who bring you good things".

The archbishop also urged the US Administration to resort to the voice of reason and realize that the difference between peace and war is like that between good and evil, life and death and construction and destruction.

Father Alexander Petros of the Greek Orthodox Church pointed out that the Arab traitors who have opened the door for the Zionist-American aggression will be condemned for ever by the Arab nation and by honest people in the world.

"The Eastern Church is proud that it is taking part in the Arab struggle against foreign threats", said the priest.

"Iraqi Moslems and Christians are united in their message, faith and national dignity".

He said "there is a need today more than at any time before to unite against those who deny our children, the beloved of God, their milk and medicine, through an inhuman blockade imposed on Iraq.

Father Louis Kassab of the Syrian Catholic Church in Baghdad said, "At this diffcult time when the world lacks stability and security, we gather in Baghdad, the city of peace, to pray for peace".

He then invited the participants to pray the "The Lord's prayer, our father".

He also called for disarmament and defusing of tension between East and West and resorting to dialogue as the sole way of achieving peace.

Conference Ends

JN0512202190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] The Christian peace conference has stated that the wise initiative announced by leader President Saddam Husayn on 12 August is a sound and balanced foundation for resolving all regional problems peacefully on the basis of right, justice, and equity.

At its conclusion today, the conference stressed that the initiative would resolve all regional problems. The conferees stressed that all UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions need to be implemented, beginning with the oldest ones, and the UNSC must employ uniform standards with these resolutions, especially those on the Palestine question.

The conference, which began Monday [3 December], decided to make Saturday, 5 January 1991, a day of prayer and fasting in all Iraqi churches to avert war, establish peace, and appeal to all world churches to show solidarity with their Iraqi Christian brothers in order to achieve this noble objective.

The conference also decided to form a high-level delegation of Christian figures to contact higher church institutions and leaders to explain to them the danger of getting involved with the advocates of war and aggression. The delegation will also be entrusted with the task of explaining to these higher institutions the dangers to the region and the world produced by the threats to use violence. The delegation will explain the need to launch a rational and constructive dialogue to resolve existing problems peacefully and to try to ensure that these higher institutions will make an appeal to the presidents of the UNSC countries to this effect.

The conferees stressed that the foreign armies deployed in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf region need to withdraw and relinquish their hegemony over all the Islamic holy places. They said that enforcing an economic blockade against the noble Iraqi people, denying its children milk, and denying its elderly and sick access to medicines is a dastardly crime against humanity and a flagrant violation of all heavenly faiths. Hence, the conferees demanded that an end be put to this blockade, which contravenes the noble teachings of Christianity; that the blockade be lifted immediately; and that the unjust and inhuman UNSC resolutions being enforced against Iraq be revoked.

The recommendations endorsed by the conferees urged the world's religious and humanitarian organizations to visit Iraq and have a firsthand look at the facts misrepresented by the tendentious news media. Furthermore, the conferees urged churches of all denominations all over the world to shoulder their religious responsibilities dictated by the essence of the pure Bible concerning peace, to raise their voices in condemning war and those who beat the drums of war so as to confront them, and to act as messengers of peace.

In its recommendations, the conference blessed leader President Saddam Husayn's decision to allow the guests of Iraq to return home or stay as they wished.

Saddam Meets With John Connally, Group

JN0512131490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received John Connally, former U.S. Treasury secretary, and Oscar Wyatt, head of the U.S. Coastal Corp. delegation.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister; Sa'di Mahdi Salih, National Assembly speaker; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, attended the meeting.

Saddam Holds 'Political Dialogue' With Garaudi

JN0512211290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2023 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today met with French thinker Roger Garaudi with whom he had a political dialogue on the latest developments in the Gulf region and the dangers to which the U.S. military buildup and threat of aggression expose regional security and stability as well as world security.

The president said the basic point that should be understood from all that is taking place in the region now is that there is a party—the United States—that seeks to impose its trusteeship on the world, and another party including the Arabs and Muslims, headed by Iraq, that rejects this trusteeship.

The president added that the United States and the Zionist entity have done a real injustice to Arabs and Muslims and their holy places. Without the elimination of this injustice, he said, the Arabs and Muslims cannot realize their human nature or highlight the Islamic principles that God has willed to be as they are.

His excellency noted that he had expressed the essence of this talk last February at the Amman summit of the Arab Cooperation Council. Because of this position, he said, we are being exposed to the present conspiracy. The president declared that this is the essence of the conflict; the secondary issues are the result.

His excellency reiterated Iraq's principled and firm position, saying: If some countries are interested in building a big edifice for peace in the Middle East as a whole, they must have the correct approach to things. This means that they must deal with all unresolved matters and with every case according to its background and to one basic criterion. They must not deal with cases on the basis of partitioning and different criteria. If they are not prepared to do this, they should leave the Arabs alone to settle their affairs on their own; the Arabs are prepared for this.

Roger Garaudi said that the tense situation in the region must be settled peacefully. He declared that the claims some people make in the name of defending international law are in fact a defense of the existing colonialist situation in the world. The escalation of the situation and the pushing of the situation toward tension and war hide known colonialist interests.

The meeting was attended by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

Saddam Confers With Yemeni Vice President

JN0512130390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid today.

Al-Bid conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with the existing brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and the latest developments in the Gulf region.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman.

Egyptian Opposition Leader Praises Saddam

JN0212194090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, received today Muhammad Farid Zakariyah, leader of the Egyptian Liberal Socialist Party. Ramadan said that the so-called Security Council Resolution No. 678 has exposed the positions of some states, which have been involved in bargains and bribes and which have abandoned the international principles and legitimacy. He pointed out that the feverish move by the U.S. President to apply Resolution No. 678 to Iraq was not balanced by any similar action regarding the Zionist prime minister's renewed rejection of all the Security Council resolutions calling for the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the Arab territories in Palestine, Lebanon, and Golan.

He added that this proves the double standard of the U.S. Administration, its strategic alliance with the Zionists, and its conspiracy against the Arabs. Ramadan also affirmed that the Arab nation has its will, and that it is strengthening its adherence to its rights and goals day by day, as well as its challenge to all forms of conspiracy and aggression. He also stressed the Arab nation's sincere desire to preserve their full rights through peaceful means and frank and comprehensive dialogue on all the Arab region's issues, foremost of which is Palestine.

The leader of the Egyptian Liberal Socialist Party praised leader President Saddam Husayn's courageous leadership, which has restored the loftiness and honor of the Arab, and has encouraged him to defend his rights and not retreat from them. He pointed out that the Egyptian Liberal Socialist Party denounces the presence of the American and allied forces on the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], which constitutes an aggression against the Arabs and a challenge to their honor and dignity. He said that the Arab masses throughout the Arab arena are supporting leader President Saddam Husayn's wise leadership.

'Aziz Receives SFRY Foreign Ministry Official

JN0212135690 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 2, INA—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, today met ambassador at the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry Melonin Calovic. [name as received]

During the meeting, bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern were discussed.

French Official Denies Medicine Reserve

JN0512125590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1012 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—Johans Linman, head of the international medical assistance organization and leader of the French medical delegation [name and title as received], has denied rumors that Iraq has a medicine reserve that can meet Iraq's needs for the next 10 years. He also denied that Iraq has used medicine to manufacture chemical weapons.

In a statement to today's issue of AL-THAWRAH newspaper, Linman said that the aim of the delegation's visit to Baghdad was to define the type of medicine required by Iraqi hospitals and to work out a formula for coordination among states to send medical assistance to Iraq.

Linman also referred to the economic blockade imposed on Iraq by the United States and its allies, and said that the resolution is devoid of humanitarian considerations. He added that it is unfair for the international community to starve a nation and prevent medicine and milk from reaching sick people and children. [passage omitted]

Meets With Health Minister

JN0212212790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id met today with Dr. Johans Linman, head of the international medical assistance organization [name and title as received], and his delegation. They discussed spheres of cooperation between the ministry and the organization and ways of promoting it. They also reviewed the economic blockade of Iraq and the preventing of medicine and baby milk from reaching Iraq.

The minister also reviewed aspects of the aggressive U.S.-Zionist plan against Iraq, especially the international medical and food siege imposed on it.

He pointed out that the UN Security Council resolution on the economic blockade violates the recommendations of the international conference on child protection held in New York in September 1990. The conference was attended by a number of leaders, including U.S. President Bush. The conference recommended child protection and limiting child deaths.

Johans Linman pointed out that he will urge international humanitarian organizations to lift the food and medicine siege on Iraq.

Saddam Envoy Returns From Malaysia 1 Dec

JN0212213090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Mundhir Ibrahim, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamed and minister of higher education and scientific research, returned to Baghdad today.

During the visit, the envoy of His Excellency President leader Saddam conveyed a message from his excellency the president to the Malaysian prime minister on bilateral ties and developments in the Arabian Gulf region.

Tehran Reports 15 Executed for Forgery

NC0412183690 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Iraqi television announced last night that 15 people were publicly executed yesterday for forging documents related to the means of transportation and sending them to Saudi Arabia. The television also gave the names of those executed.

Allegations of Attack on Kurdish Rebels Denied

JN0612144790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1354 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—The INA international affairs editor has exposed the falseness of the allegations disseminated by the Egyptian paper AL-AHRAM and the British paper THE INDEPENDENT, which claim that the Iraqi Army has launched an attack on Kurdish rebels in the north.

The international affairs editor described these allegations as a figment of the imagination and said they are totally unfounded. He further said that these allegations come within the context of the hostile imperialist campaign launched by Zionist circles against Iraq because of its pan-Arab positions and its defense of Arab rights.

The international affairs editor said that the dear north of Iraq enjoys stability and peace and dignity under the wing of President Saddam Husayn, by virtue of all the elements of stability and invincibility which his excellency has provided to that area.

The international affairs editor added that the arms of the Iraqis—Arabs and Kurds—are joined together at work in the green fields, and in building roads, buildings and hotels, owing to the prevalent peace and stability in our dear north, which embraced those people who were misinformed and returned from abroad.

The editor explained that anyone who cites such allegations should corroborate them with at least one piece of evidence to prove them.

He added that people with sick mentalities who become sad when they see Iraq lofty after having thwarted the most dangerous imperialist conspiracies which target the Arab nation and its dignity, will always make up lies and inane allegations in the hope that one day they will find someone who will believe them.

Comments on Security Council Resolution Reported

NPPF Denounces Action

JN0212195290 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad—The National Progressive and Patriotic Front [NPPF] has denounced the UN Security Council's aggressive and illegal resolution to use force against Iraq contrary to the UN Charter and the Council's goals.

In a statement it issued today, the NPPF denounced this disgraceful crime that the U.S. Administration has perpetrated by exerting all forms of pressure and practicing blackmail, threats, and bribes against the UN Security Council members and forcing them to sign this disgraceful resolution, which constitutes a premeditated violation of the UN Charter, constitution, and goals.

The NPPF stressed that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative constitutes the way to achieve a comprehensive peace and to tackle the region's interrelated problems, at the forefront of which is the Palestine question; and that he who seeks peace, security, and stability should withdraw his forces from the Arab region, lift the unjust economic blockade against our people, and respond to this historical initiative.

The NPPF called on the Arab and world public opinion to confront the will of evil and aggression of the U.S. Administration, which seeks to drag mankind into the abyss of a devastating war threatening the world's existence and future.

Palestinians in Kuwait Comment

JN0112104690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Dec (INA)—The Palestinian al-Ta'amirah tribes residing in the Governorate of Kuwait have denounced, in a crowded gathering in the Hawalli area today the recent United Nations Security Council

[UNSC] resolution against Iraq as embodying the hegemony of the U.S. Administration over this international body, which has become an assembly for carrying out the sick will of evil people.

Speeches were delivered and poems were recited at the gathering praising the unique leadership of al-mujahid Saddam Husayn and confirming the support of the sons of the Arab nation for his wise leadership.

The Palestinian tribes expressed in their slogans and songs their willingness to defend Iraq against the American-Zionist plot aimed at humiliating the Arabs, plundering their wealth, and desecrating Muslim holy places.

Paper Claims 'Bribe'

JN0212135790 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 2, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad said that major pressures exercised by Bush himself and Secretary of State James Baker on some Security Council members to issue the unjust decision adopted recently by the Security Council to use force against Iraq [sentence as received].

The daily denounced the said decision describing it as a political and moral scandal witnessed by the international organisation during last decade of this century, saying that this decision was also a scandal clearly embodied that the Security Council had become a docile instrument of the U.S Administration [sentence as received].

The daily stressed that this decision did not express the real will of the international community but it represents will of the United States and its aggressive tendency.

The daily strongly condemned stances of some Security Council's members who received the bribe and declared their pursuit and dependency behind the American hostile stance towards the Gulf crisis, confirming that these devious stances would damage their interests in the region.

Paper Warns 'Aggressors' Against War With Iraq

JN0512084590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that Iraq's power will put an end to the evil and tyrannical forces and will inflict just punishment on them.

In its editorial today, the paper stresses that the waves of foreign invasion will be crushed against the Iraqi wall if any side decides to launch aggression against Iraq. It adds that Iraq will make all the evildoers and their agents an example for oppressors and aggressors, will wipe out names and thrones, and will sever the lifeline of the aggressors.

The newspaper warns the aggressors that the clique of evildoers will discover the gravity of their mistake if they clash with Iraq's comprehensive force, which will repulse, deter, and sweep away all the invaders, evildoers, occupiers, and small servants.

It says that it is time for the land to be purged of their corruption and evil and that the isolated treacherous individual in the Arabian Peninsula and his small ally Husni will discover the enormity of their crime and receive the punishment they deserve.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that Iraq's huge power has prepared for the Arabs and the faithful an opportunity for parity with the enemies that are lying in wait, because only power can provide hope and open the way for liberating Jerusalem and restoring the Arab nation's rights, which were usurped by the tyrants and occupiers.

USSR Reportedly Satisfied With Release Plan

JN0512190190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Moscow, 5 Dec (INA)—The USSR has expressed satisfaction with the decision of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] to allow Soviet experts to leave Iraq.

This came in a statement issued by the Soviet Foreign Ministry here today.

An RCC spokesman announced yesterday that any Soviet expert who wishes to travel outside Iraq can do so as of today.

Military Chief Reacts to Saudi Commander Remarks

JN0512132590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—Commenting on the recent irresponsible statements made by Khalid Bin-Sultan, the so-called commander of the Arab forces deployed in the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], to the effect that "his forces are conducting training attacks targeting Iraq," the army chief of staff, who holds the rank of staff lieutenant general, has stated the following to INA:

It was not strange to see such statements made by the staff of the regime of the betrayer of the two holy mosques, who was involved in bringing in the foreign fleets which desecrated the lands of holy places in Mecca and Medina. Likewise, it was not strange for this man to show himself as an agent of his U.S. and Zionist masters and and to their Arab traitor lackeys who pushed their troops to the side of the foreign forces. However, we would like to tell Khalid Bin-Sultan and his aides that they will personally be taken to task for every drop of Iraqi or Saudi blood shed if they were to do it [to attack]. Then, seeking refuge in the United States or elsewhere will not protect them from the wrath of the Saudi and Iraqi peoples. Furthermore, numerous treasonous and failing heads will roll. God supports the faithful.

Jasim Condemns 'Conspiracy' Against Mauritania

JN0512145090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1252 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has condemned the malevolent conspiracy seeking to disturb the peace in fraternal Mauritania.

In a statement to INA, the culture and information minister said that any conspiracy targeting the Mauritanian president and government would serve imperialism, Zionism, and Arab reaction, which were annoyed by Mauritania's clear Arab policy and its constructive pan-Arab positions on the conflict between the Arabs and the imperialists and Zionists, and also on the presence of U.S. fleets in the Arabian Gulf and the lands of holy places in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

The minister affirmed Iraq's support for fraternal Mauritania and solidarity with Mauritania's nationalist government and its proud Arab people.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim reiterated Iraq's firm backing and support for Mauritania against all the conspiracies being hatched against it, regardless of the sources concocting these conspiracies.

Saddam Chairs RCC, Ba'th Party Meeting

JN0512124790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1239 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command today.

Paper Blames Blockade for Children's Deaths

JN0612134590 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec.6, INA—Innocent children are dying in Iraq every day as a result of the U.S-imposed economic blockade. The deaths are the result of shortages in medicines and milk, which the U.S.A. and its allies have created in banning these basic human needs from reaching Iraq as part of the all-out blockade on land, at sea and in the air.

THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in its editorial today has added that the number of unfortunate Iraqi children who have died because of the four-month blockade reached 1,416 by Monday. All were under the age of five.

However, the news announced by the Iraqi health minister did not seem to move the hearts of U.S. leaders or others who have been under U.S. tutelage.

When the blockade was imposed on Iraq, the U.N Security Council resolutions issued to this effect did not refer to a ban on medicine, nor does it permit starvation of a people, but the U.S. and its allies have been doing their best to see the people of Iraq starve to death.

While this aim is unattainable, nor feasible, considering the fact that Iraqis are a patient people that can hold fast, children at tender age will be the main victims. Perhaps the U.S. Administration is rejoicing at Iraqi children's suffering, but humanitarian organisations and good-intentioned people of the world cannot permit this to go for too long. Or, so is the hope.

The inhuman blockade against Iraqi people has mainly hit the children, the women, the elderly and heart and cancer patients. These seem to be the target of U.S. fight in its persistence to go on with its aggression against Iraq. How brave of the U.S.

The prevention of food, medicines and baby milk from reaching children contradicts all human values and international laws. Ironically, the U.S. and its allies persist in this brutal treatment of the children though they only recently attended an international conference for the protection of children. The conference was held in New York, where the United Nations is based and under the auspices of the world body. What's more, the U.S. President himself was present.

What a pity for the world children to have leaders like George Bush choking the throats of the young ones. What has happened to the children in the world?

This should alert the peoples of the world and their governments to act immediately to end such heinous crimes against humanity.

Saddam Cables National Day Greetings

CAR's Kolingba

JN0112085290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to Andre Kolingba, president of the Central African Republic [CAR], on the occasion of his country's national day.

The cable reads: On the occasion of your country's national day, it pleases me to send to Your Excellency the best congratulations wishing you good health and happiness; the people of CAR progress and prosperity; and further development in the friendship between our countries.

Romania's Iliescu

JN0112085090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to Romanian President Ion Iliescu on the occasion of his country's national day.

The cable reads: On the occasion of Romania's national day, it pleases me to send to Your Excellency the best congratulations wishing you good health and happiness; the Romanian people progress and prosperity; and development of the existing friendship and cooperation between Iraq and Romania in the interest of our friendly nations.

Benin's Kerekou

JN3011193390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to Mathieu Kerekou, president of the Republic of Benin, on his country's national day.

The cable reads: On the occasion of your country's national day, it pleases me to wish Your Excellency the best congratulations and good health and happiness; your people progress and prosperity; and development and growth for the existing friendship between our countries in the interest of our people.

Comparison of Saddam Interview With Paris TV

JN0312181090

Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1341 GMT on 3 December transmits the "text" of an interview with President Saddam Husayn held on 1 December in Baghdad by Paris Antenne 2 Television in French. The INA version has been compared with the Paris Antenne 2 Television version published in the 3 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 16-20, revealing the following variations:

Page 16, column one, paragraph four, sentence one reads:...Nations: You know, and we know, how these have been defined and settled. (supplying additional material)

Same paragraph, sentence two, reads:...of things since 2 August last: when one sees how... (supplying date).

Same sentence make read:...and Cheney, and the different economic agreements concluded on the international arena,... (providing word)

Same paragraph, sentence five reads:...in the Gulf? And where are China's troops?

[new paragraph] [Levai] Why do you think? (supplying additional material)

Column two, paragraph five, sentence three reads:...many times that the Western administrations would be making a serious mistake... (supplying alternate wording)

Same column, paragraph seven, sentence four reads:...to leave Iraq. We have even allowed all nationals of certain states to leave Iraq.

[new paragraph] [Ockrent] These inhumane salami tactics... (supplying additional sentence)

Page 17, column one, paragraph six, sentence four reads:...would the French or American people gain if there was war? (inserting word "American")

Same column, paragraph seven, sentence one reads:...the United Nations. Why not give a hint of a possibility about Kuwait—territorial rearrangements, for example?

[new paragraph] [Saddam] Perhaps, Madame Ockrent, when you asked that... (deleting material in paragraphs one and two, picking up paragraph two, sentence three)

Column two, paragraph four, sentence one reads:...West is correct: 6,000 dead among the civilian population, 20,000 missing and, President... (supplying alternate figures).

Page 18, column one, paragraph three, sentence two reads:...not many friends in the Arab world?

[new paragraph] [Saddam] When you speak... (deleting material, changing phrase in sentence two to question, picking up paragraph seven)

Column two, paragraph one, sentence one reads:...for 22 years. During all this crisis, and according... (deleting material, picking up sentence two)

Same column, paragragh six, sentence three reads:... something other than war?

[new paragraph] [Saddam] Myself, I recall...(deleting material, picking up paragraph seven, sentence one)

Same column, paragraph four, sentence seven reads:...people who do not leave any choice... (adding word "not")

Page 19, Column one, paragraph one, sentence one reads:...[Levai] Is it necessary for a country like Iraq to endow itself... (clearing indistinct words)

Column two, paragraph two, sentence three reads:...a partial withdrawal as a start to the solution of the whole problem.

[new paragraph] [Saddam] It is normal that... (deleting material, rewording, picking up paragraph five, sentence one)

Page 20, column one, paragraph two, sentence two read:...that you received five tonnes of medicines last month. Could these not be distributed to the people?

[new paragraph] [Saddam] We are distributing them,... (changing figure, supplying alternate last sentence, picking up paragraph three, sentence one)

Same column, paragraph eight, sentence two reads: Then, we will be closer to war.

[new paragraph] [Ockrent] Thank you, Mr. President.

[new paragraph] [Saddam] I am glad to have met with you.

[new paragraph] [Ockrent] Thank you for receiving us. Can we go to Kuwait, as you have hinted a short while ago?

[new paragraph] [Saddam] When the threat is over, you will certainly go there and do whatever you want freely.

[new paragraph] [Ockrent] I have a request I would like to make. There is a doctor who has worked for a long time in your country with a French humanitarian organization. This doctor has the Swiss nationality and he is in a difficult psychological and physical condition, and he cannot leave Iraq now. But, as we are leaving Iraq now after this interview with your excellency—arranged thanks to the efforts of the information minister—can we leave Iraq with this Swiss doctor?

[new paragraph] [Saddam] It is difficult for an official like me who belongs to a noble people—the Iraqi and Arab peoples—with age-old traditions to turn down such a request by the Madame. Therefore, if the doctor you are referring to is indeed in Iraq and is prevented from traveling, you can take him with you and leave Iraq.

[new pargraph] [Ockrent] Thank you very much.

[new paragraph] [Saddam] Nice to have met you. Thank you. We have tried to learn French, but we could not continue with it due to the pressures of work.

[new paragraph] [Ockrent] Our correspondent in Baghdad has learned Arabic. I am talking about the network's correspondent in Baghdad, while I am only a small journalist.

[new paragraph] [Saddam] You will become a big journalist in the future. You speak modestly now, and this modesty will make an important person out of you.

[new paragraph] [Ockrent] We must be modest.

[new paragraph] [Saddam] God wills that. Thank you.

[new paragraph] [Ockrent] Thank you, Mr. President. (changing "armed conflict" into "war," supplying additional paragraphs)

Levi Links Provocation, Independent Action

TA0512195090 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondent asked Foreign Minister Levi about the apprehension that the U.S. determination toward Saddam Husayn will weaken:

[Begin recording] [Levi] It should be remembered that the U.S. Army and the armies of its allies did not arrive in the region upon an Israeli invitation and that the international coalition was certainly not established in order to protect Israel's interests. Therefore, I am warning of a situation in which all of these leave and Saddam Husayn is left with achievements and with his arsenal intact. Anyone who believes that Israel will maintain its low profile when facing such a threat all alone is wrong. To defend its security and existence in the event of danger, Israel will not call upon foreign troops to fight its war, as it had never done in the past, but will respond with all its strength, as it always has, that is, in the highest possible profile. This will be done to safeguard Israel's existence.

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin] Will this be a reaction or an initiative?

[Levi] I allow for both reaction and discretion to be used in every case of possible provocation—which I hope will not arise—or every attempt to harm our security. When the others are no longer there, Israel will have the independence to think and decide on its actions. [end recording]

Prime Minister Shamir Interviewed

TA0612061890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, are you leaving for the talks with President Bush with the feeling that you understand and are familiar with Washington's latest intentions regarding Saddam Husayn?

[Shamir] I hope that after I meet with President Bush and we hold a comprehensive discussion on developments in the region and on the relationship between the United States and Israel, I will know more and be all the wiser.

[Golan] If the Americans and their allies give in to Saddam Husayn, if they reach a compromise with him by relinquishing part of Kuwait—and there have been such reports—and Husayn gets to keep his arsenal of deadly weapons, what would the significance of such a situation be for us?

[Shamir] I do not think that I should indulge in speculations about what if. There is no point in doing this, and it does no one any good. I would prefer to comment on the developments and happenings after I conclude my talks with President Bush.

[Golan] Do you not fear that we may one day find ourselves fighting the Iraqi war machine?

[Shamir] I hope that we will not have to fight at all. This really is the reason for our actions. Anything can happen, however, and we must make sure that if, God forbid, anything happens that will force us to take up arms, it will be under the best possible conditions for us.

[Golan] Would you say that President Bush's initiative to hold a dialogue with Iraq increases the possibility that Israel may have to face Iraq alone?

[Shamir] I do not believe we will find ourselves in such a situation, but I would not want to make any guesses or predictions.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, President Bush will certainly want to discuss the political process and the solution of the Palestinian problem during your talks. Are you bringing with you this time to the White House the kind of new ideas the Americans sometimes like to talk about?

[Shamir] I imagine that the issue of how to make progress toward the resolution of the conflict between Israel and the Arabs and how to move toward peace will be discussed in the course of our talks. I, of course, have answers to these questions. I will share my ideas with President Bush as to how Israel, with the aid of the United States, can start working toward resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict after the Gulf crisis is over.

[Golan] Can you give us a clue as to these ideas? Are they new?

[Shamir] I do not think that this is the time to give hints. This must be part of our dialogue with the United States.

[Golan] Let us move on to another subject: the absorption of the mass immigration from the Soviet Union. We now need tens of billions of dollars. Do you intend to ask the U.S. President for this sum or for part of it?

[Shamir] I believe the United States is ready to come to our aid in absorbing this immigration. After all, immigrant absorption is the most important thing now that we have reached the stage of mass immigration. Therefore, we will discuss this issue, perhaps not only with the President but also with other officials in Washington, and I hope that we will make progress on this most crucial issue.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, you have not met with President Bush for approximately one year, for months you have not even spoken on the phone, and one could say that your only contacts were through correspondence and the exchange of messages. Do you believe that your scheduled meeting next week will break the ice?

[Shamir] I do not think this is in any way a matter of personal relations or contacts. There was no room, in my opinion, for a personal relationship over the last few months, because Israel was not directly involved in the matters and issues that preoccupied President Bush. Now, once we have had a chance to talk and perhaps sum up the major developments in the region and Israel's relationship with the United States, I feel that we will be able to formulate a joint path along which we can successfully progress toward resolving all those problems that interest both the United States and Israel.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, I wish you a good trip.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 6 December, in a report by Jack Katzenell on Shamir's imminent departure for the United States, quotes "a source close to the prime minister" as saying that Shamir "will express very strong opposition to the administration's plan to sell huge quantities of the most sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia. Whatever the outcome of the Gulf crisis, the prime minister will tell his American hosts, when the American troops go home, Israel has to go on living in the region, and the arms sales to Saudi Arabia will upset the strategic balance. Shamir accepts that America's latest diplomatic initiative in the Gulf is a last-ditch attempt to secure the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait without bloodshed, but he will stress that the world cannot afford to be too tolerant with the Iraqi dictator."]

On U.S. Commitments, Nuclear Disarmament

TA0612073690 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Dec 90 pp 1, 13

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer; in Jerusalem on 5 December]

[Excerpt] [Schiffer] How would you like the Gulf crisis to end?

[Shamir] From Israel's viewpoint, my deepest wish is that it will not be harmed and that, in the wake of the crisis, the dangers to Israel do not grow, so that we can continue to absorb without unnecessary risks the immigration wave, which is of the highest priority.

[Schiffer] Will you ask President Bush for a U.S. commitment to remove the Iraqi military threat?

[Shamir] I do not now want to present any requests to the U.S. Administration. The United States is presently facing enormous problems, and I assume that it is not an easy task for the U.S. President to provide answers to all the questions which pile up on his desk hour after hour.

Up to now, I believe he has met the challenge and has handled the situation with great wisdom, talent, and success, but the campaign is still not over. I assume that he is aware of Israel's concerns. I will try to explain and detail them to him. I hope that he understands Israel's genuine interests, that he will consider them justly and with appreciation for Israel's responsible behavior.

[Schiffer] In reference to the nuclear threat presented by Iraq, do you expect the United States to deal with it within the framework of the attempts to find a settlement?

[Shamir] Iraq set up one of the largest armies in the world. It has invested in building up its military prowess and shown total disregard for the rest of the world by destroying a neighboring country within a few hours. Such a country is most dangerous to anybody close to its territory. The destructive weapons it possesses pose a grave danger to the inhabitants of the region and to the entire world. We are more threatened than many others. One must remember that Israel is in no way a partner to that conflict. Responsibility lies with all those responsible elements in our time which must be aware of what could happen as a result of the destructive weapons in Iraq's hands.

[Schiffer] Will you therefore support the idea that U.S. Administration officials are going to present to you on the convening of a regional conference on disarmament of chemical, nuclear, and other weapons when the crisis is over?

[Shamir] Israel has never feared or tried to shirk off various ideas for regional nuclear disarmament. Many conditions must be met, however, before the issue can be discussed. We are not opposed in principle to any disarmament plan for either conventional or nonconventional weapons.

[Schiffer] On strategic cooperation with the United States: Are you satisfied with the level of coordination, and what will you ask for on that subject?

[Shamir] I do not see any decline in strategic cooperation. Nevertheless, we should remember that the circumstances created recently have a special character. Therefore, due to the Arab coalition, the current situation cannot be included within that framework. Because of the fact that we are situated in this region and are being threatened, and because we are allies, a common language must be found between us and the United States. I will discuss that with my U.S. interlocutors.

[Schiffer] Will you raise new ideas to advance the peace process in connection with the Palestinian issue?

[Shamir] Today's conditions are not suitable for introducing new activity and discussing in detail ways to advance Middle East peace. Nevertheless, the Government of Israel continues to be committed to the Camp David accords and to its peace initiative of May 1989. I have no doubt that even before the crisis is over, we will have talks with the U.S. Administration on how to continue the efforts to advance peace.

[Schiffer] Is the formula that we will have to give up the Golan Heights to reach a settlement with Syria acceptable to you?

[Shamir] I will not think about or discuss such ideas today. I believe that the Golan Heights are part of the State of Israel. That has already been decided and that is the policy, but I favor entering direct negotiations with all neighboring Arab states, including Syria. [passage omitted]

Welcomes Baker's Remark on Defense

TA0612075190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Dec 90

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to his departure on a visit to the United Kingdom and the United States—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [correspondent Arye Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, Secretary of State Baker yesterday evening declared that the United States would defend Israel if we were attacked by Iraq. My question is whether this statement serves to calm you and to allay your fears about compromises and concessions to Saddam Husayn, perhaps at Israel's expense?

[Shamir] Things must be understood as they are. We and the United States are longstanding allies, and we have memorandums of mutual understanding which obligate both sides. Nevertheless, the State of Israel has never asked the United States for protection. We have always told the United States that Israel is capable of defending itself. We only asked the United States to supply us with the means to do so and with the requisite conditions. I welcome the secretary of state's statement. This is but another expression of friendship and understanding.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Shamir, I have two questions. The first: When in Washington, how will you present your opinion regarding the launching of the U.S.-Iraqi dialogue? My second question relates to the security situation inside Israel. Do you feel that additional measures are necessary in order to improve security inside Israel?

[Shamir] Well, as for the Gulf crisis and the ways to resolve it, I would be very happy and am very curious to hear the U.S. President's ideas and thoughts on the matter. We generally support his policy and have confidence in the prudent considerations of the United States in all its actions in the region right now. Of course, during our talks, we will express our conclusions and the ramifications of this crisis as far as Israel is concerned. Israel is a part of this region and is seriously threatened—perhaps more than any other country—by Iraq. That is why there is a special obligation toward us.

As for security inside Israel: It could be that we are currently facing attempts to escalate the violence. I am sure that even if this violence by various Arab elements assumes different guises, it will not change the fact that this path of violence will not bring any results. Whatever the Arabs do and whatever means they use, they will get nothing from Israel by violence. The only way open to everyone to resolve the conflicts and effect a change for the better in the situation is that of negotiations.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, to return to what you were just saying. Shots were fired at a bus last night in Judaea and Samaria. Does this—the use of firearms—constitute a new phase in the intifadah? The passengers who were on the bus this morning said that we are actually in a state of war.

[Shamir] Well, I was referring to exactly that same incident which took place last night. This is not the first case of shooting, and it is hard to know if it augurs a new wave of such attacks. We, however, will adopt all the measures that are called for in light of the use of these weapons. But I reiterate that it will not help at all, and it will not aid those who make use of weapons of any kind. Israel will also overcome this. [passage omitted]

Denies U.S. Support for Conference

TA0612091690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, reacting to reports that the United States would be willing to support the convening of an international conference, said he knows that Washington does not support such an idea and is familiar with Israel's position on the matter. Mr. Shamir made these remarks during a meeting with correspondents before embarking on his trip to Britain and the United States.

Levi Reiterates Current Position on Gulf

TA0512154090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Anyone who tries to pull peace tricks on Israel to surprise it will find that his security will be shattered and Israel will hurt him until he regrets his deeds. These remarks were made today by Foreign Minister David Levi, who replied to motions to the Knesset's agenda on the negotiations between Iraq and the United States. Our correspondent Yaron Toren reports:

In a long speech today, Foreign Minister David Levi reviewed Israel's current positions on the Gulf crisis. In light of the negotiations initiated by President Bush, Levi explained to the Knesset members that the U.S. Administration remains committed to Israel's security and that there is a U.S. promise that no linkage with the Israeli-Arab conflict will become a feature during the talks with Iraq.

In the debate, David Levi repeated his earlier statements, namely that Israel's policy throughout the crisis has to date been low- keyed but that if anyone tries to harm us, Israel will assume the highest profile it can.

[Begin Levi recording] Israel does not employ the same means or lethal weapons which Saddam Husayn had used against his own brethren and which he has threatened to use against us. However, if anyone thinks that by pulling some trick in the name of peace he would be able to continue to threaten us in the aim of surprising Israel, he will find Israel always well prepared to shatter his security with its strength and hurt it until he regrets his deed. [end recording]

Before that, a series of motions to the agenda on the Bush-al- Asad meeting were raised at the Knesset. In the course of that debate, Knesset Member Elyaqim Ha'etzni of Tehiya expressed apprehensions about the future of the Golan in negotiations involving Syria. In his comments, he intimated that he does not trust David Levi in this regard:

[Begin Levi recording] I have no need to defend myself, and I am not in the box facing questioning by you. My loyalty to Eretz Yisra'el does not require your seal of approval. Nevertheless, I would like to emphasize in the context of the Golan that there has been neither a direct nor a hinted declaration by myself or on my behalf on Israel's readiness to make any concession on the Golan. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 5 December, reporting on Levi's remarks at the Knesset, adds that he said he "is convinced the United States adheres to its goals in the Persian Gulf and is aware of the danger enveloped in Iraq's military power." Minister Levi reportedly "recalled before the Knesset plenum the latest comments made by U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney about the chemical weapons Saddam Husayn has and the biological weapons he is developing and noted that the Americans believe that if he had nuclear weapons at his disposal as well, he would not have hesitated to use them."]

Peres Criticizes Shamir for 'Tragic Situation'

TA0512132890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Shim'on Peres, chairman of the Labor Party, accused Prime Minister Shamir of striving to split the nation in order to perpetuate his rule. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that during a tour of Haifa, Peres said that the country is in a tragic situation: It has neither a government nor a policy. The government is constantly showing helplessness in matters of security; the policy of deportations cannot be used as a method, because, according to him, solutions should be based on political settlements.

Referring to aliyah, Mr. Peres said that Soviet immigrants should not be offered street-sweeping jobs; employment must be found at once for these people. A three-year national agreement to freeze the standard of life must be attained, and priority should be given to creating jobs for immigrants.

On political issues, MK Peres said that the message conveyed by Foreign Minister David Levi to the United States is a bad one, as it creates the impression that Israel is pressing Washington to employ military means.

Source on Syrian Plans To Obtain Korean Missiles

TA0512200690 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] A senior Army source said tonight that Israel is more concerned about the Syrians' plan to procure long-range North Korean missiles, which can cover the entire populated Israeli territory, than it is about the Iraqi missiles.

At the same time, the senior Army source confirmed that at the beginning of this week, Iraq made an east-to-west test launch of three upgraded Scud missiles. The missiles' range is about 600 km, and they are to be deployed in western Iraq. They, too, can hit Israel.

U.S. Aid Makes Syria 'Real Threat'

TA0612121490 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 6 Dec 90 p 5

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A senior military source said that the Iraqi threat is not the only problem Israel will have to confront. The fact that Syria has dispatched troops to the international force in Saudi Arabia and is viewed by the Americans as an important component in the lineup of countries that have mobilized against Iraq has provided legitimacy for its actions in U.S. eyes: "Under the umbrella of this new legitimacy, lines of credit have become available to Syria. The Syrians are receiving funds from various sources and have already renewed the arms race. The money they have received has enabled them to make a deal with North Korea to purchase Scud-C missiles, which have a range of 500 km. This poses a real threat to Israel, because the missiles are very accurate and have a warhead of one tonne."

U.S. aid to Syria and the lines of credit it is receiving make it a real threat to Israel, and this threat will grow once the Gulf crisis ends, the military source added.

In reference to Jordan, the sources said that Husayn is in a tough spot. This is the real reason behind his policy and his moves, which are aimed at enabling him to survive. He will survive in the short run, but in the long run new threats to Husayn's regime are cropping up in Jordan. These are the Islamic fundamentalist elements and various Palestinians, such as Shaykh al-Tamimi, the Islamic Jihad leader.

Army Reinforces Jordan Border Posts

TA0612053190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The Army has deployed additional paratrooper and Golani units along the border with Jordan. The Voice of Israel's military correspondent adds that the Army has increased the number of patrols along the border following recent infiltrations from Jordan. The head of Central Command, Yitzhaq Mordekhay, told reporters that the Jordanians have also been taking measures including the building of a fence along the border. He said they are also stepping up their patrols in the area.

EC Delegates Remark on Gulf Situation

Chairman Reacts to Levi Remarks

TA0512171090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Report by Asaf Ya'ari]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister David Levi's remarks to the EC delegation yesterday brought a sharp reaction from the delegation head, Renzo Embeni, member of the Italian Communist Party. Reacting to the charge that Europe had sold weapons to Iraq, Embeni said that this is an argumentative statement, and that Iraq had received weapons from the North, South, East, and West. [passage omitted]

Referring to another issue, Embeni said cynically that he hopes Europe will not be required to prove to what extent it is committed to Israel's security. It is important that Israel maintain a low profile, he added, if this is what the government here truly wants.

The delegation's visit has borne fruit, nevertheless, such as the discussion of loans for immigrant absorption, for instance. This is what Mrs. (van Hemmeldong), the Belgian delegation member, said:

[Begin (van Hemmeldong) recording in English] We made specific suggestions as to aid and loans which could be given from the EC in this specific situation. [end recording]

A decision on one loan in the sum of 126 million ECU—the new European currency—which is the equivalent of approximately 400 million shekels, has already been made. This loan will be used for construction infrastructure.

Delegate Embeni also said that the resumption of scientific cooperation between the European Parliament and Israel is possible on two conditions: 1. That all the universities in the territories are reopened. 2. That the preventive administrative detentions, such as the cases of Abu-Ziyyad and Abu-'Ayyash, be discontinued.

Notes Disagreements With Israel

TA0512185590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Report by Miryam Herschlag]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] At a press conference, EC delegation chairman Renzo Embeni said there was much substantive disagreement between the EC and the Israeli Government. He noted points of dissension which included Israel's opposition to an international peace conference, the rejection of the PLO as a partner for talks, and what he called the lack of respect for international law.

But Embeni also said Israel and Europe had common interests. He felt that the recent developments in East Europe, the unification of Germany, and monetary union in Europe all pointed to positive trends and represented the possibility for world peace. [passage omitted]

The EC delegation leaves Israel on Friday.

Delegate Warns Against 'Linkage'

TA0612064590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] (Marika van Hemmeldong), European Parliament delegation member, warns that recent U.S. moves may lead to linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue. (van Hemmeldong), a Jew from Belgium who is part of the delegation now in Israel, told reporter Miryam Herschlag: Shamir must make his own move in order to avoid the possibility of linkage.

[Begin (van Hemmeldong) recording] Prime Minister Shamir is going to meet with President Bush. He will have to make proposals. If he does not, I'm afraid that there's going to be a package deal and that it will mean that both the Palestinian and the Lebanese question will be tied up with the Gulf in one sort of major conference, and there, I'm afraid, Israel is simply going to be crushed. So, I think it's important that even if you were opposed to an international conference on the Palestinian question before, that now you have a case to ask for an international conference on the Palestinian question, just so as to get it separate from the package deal on the Gulf crisis, where all the negotiators will mostly be Arab.

Secondly, I think that regardless of the solution which eventually will be found for the Palestinian problem, Israel has to prepare to become a pluralistic society, and I would like dearly to see electoral reform. I think it's absolutely necessary since you can't govern this country otherwise, not with civil groups of people in it.

I also think you should clearly separate religion from state. I am only sorry that you seem to be moving the other way. [end recording]

Editorial Rejects Levi Message as 'Premature'

TA0612115290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Dec 90 p B1

[Editorial: "There Is No Reason To Deviate From the Low Profile Policy"]

[Text] If the United States shakes off its commitment to remove the Iraqi military threat, Israel will no longer be committed to its low profile policy in relation to the Persian Gulf crisis, Foreign Minister David Levi told

U.S. Ambassador William Brown and asked him to relay this response to Washington. Levi summoned Brown after receiving a message from James Baker in which the secretary of state announced President George Bush's initiative: the visit to Washington by Tariq 'Aziz and the Baker visit to Baghdad.

The low profile policy was a wise directive for us from the moment the United States decided to react to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait by dispatching its military forces to Saudi Arabia, as well as during the later stages of the affair. It is possible, friends in Washington told us, that the enormous military buildup was aimed not only at forcing Saddam Husayn to give up Kuwait, return the emirate to its legitimate rulers, and release all the hostages, but also at getting rid of the entire Iraqi war machine, including the nonconventional weapons in its arsenal. As of yesterday, however, nothing was known of an actual commitment of this nature—a commitment that would have given us the right to demand its implementation, as if it were anchored in a contract between the two countries.

President Bush's latest initiative, on the other hand, could lead to the conclusion that the United States is ready to leave Saddam Husayn in power and make do with a withdrawal from Kuwait. The fact that George Bush, in his speech in the Uruguayan capital, stressed that he does not plan to negotiate with the Iraqi ruler and that he will insist on an unconditional withdrawal does not allay all our fears; knowledgeable sources in London have just claimed that the five permanent members of the Security Council are prepared to promise Saddam Husayn "that he will not be overthrown and will not be attacked if he withdraws unconditionally."

On the other hand, the military buildup of the United States and its allies is still continuing, and the crisis is far from over. Saddam Husayn has avoided or has been careful not to provoke Israel over the past four months, and Israel's motive for not making it harder on the United States—which has been forced to take Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria into account—is still valid.

It is obvious that Israel wants the Iraqi military threat to be totally eliminated, but even those who doubt that that can be done at present cannot under any circumstances justify the foreign minister's premature announcement about a change in the policy of standing on the sidelines, which Israel has maintained so far.

We must wait patiently for developments in the crisis. In any event, the United States will not be impressed by every Israeli threat about raising its profile and will insist that we do not disturb it in its operation, which includes incorporating the United Nations in the process of building up enough power to enable it to use the military option.

The foreign minister told a delegation from the European Parliament that Israel "will react with the highest possible profile if its existence is endangered." It is possible that David Levi was tempted by the opportunity to engage in rhetoric, but what was the point of providing Baghdad with ammunition in its propaganda campaign, because it claims anyway that Israel is planning a preemptive war by using nuclear weapons? It must be said about Saddam Husayn that he is aware of Israel's strength, and the scenario he forecast some time ago that he would attack us in order to smash the coalition between the United States and Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria has still not taken place.

Israel hopes the world learned the lesson of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and that the international effort will free the entire region from the threat of chemical, biological, and perhaps nuclear weapons, which have been piling up in Iraqi warehouses. The United States is orchestrating this effort; if it succeeds, this will also be good for us. If we are forced to stand alone, we will decide on our own; but until we are forced into such a situation, it is our duty and our interest to coordinate with the sole superpower.

Jewish Settlement in Territories Increases

TA0512183890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Jewish settlement leaders say tonight that despite three years of the Palestinian uprising, the number of Jewish settlers has increased by 50 percent to nearly 100,000. At a news conference in Jerusalem, the settlement leaders say they expect a huge increase in the current Jewish population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza because of the housing shortage within the Green Line. Ya'aqov Rosenberg reports:

[Passage omitted] The most rapid growth has taken place in the bigger towns, such as Ma'ale Adumim and Ari'el, and these towns are expected to boom as the huge influx of Soviet Jews press thousands of young Israelis to search for cheaper housing. [passage omitted]

The settlers council says that the 95,000 Jews in the territories represent a message to the international community, particularly to the United States. In the words of one settlement leader: You may not agree with us, but we are now a factor.

Officer Badly Wounded; Two West Bank Arabs Killed

TA0512174490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpts] This morning, a Border Police unit came upon a mass demonstration presumably marking the third intifadah anniversary in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza. Some of the marchers were masked members of strike committees of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. The unit took action, and a border policeman was shot in the head and severely wounded. He was transferred to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. The Border Police is investigating the event. In the course of this activity, the security forces detained 22 Arab residents, including five masked youths. One of them was critically wounded and evacuated to a hospital. [passage omitted]

The security forces are preparing for escalated ferment and tension in the upcoming week, when the territories will be marking the third anniversary of the intifadah, the PFLP foundation day, and the Islamic Jihad's intifadah day tomorrow.

The PFLP held several processions in Nabulus, Ramallah, and Bethlehem today. In riots in Ramallah, five youths were wounded and a curfew was imposed in the city's center.

The excitement on the eve of the debates in the Security Council, in anticipation of which the intifadah leadership would like to exacerbate the situation in the territories, should not be overlooked, either.

This afternoon, an Arab resident was murdered in a pharmacist's shop in downtown Ramallah. Another youth was assassinated in Janin. Both had been shot by masked individuals.

Officer, Others Injured; Body Found Near Tulkarm

TA0512211290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Three Israelis tonight sustained slight injuries near the village of 'Ayn Siniya north of Ramallah after shots were fired at the bus they were riding in from the settlement of Elon More. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the wounded passengers were evacuated to Hadassah-Mount Scopus Hospital. Army and police forces proceeded to close off the area.

An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] captain tonight sustained moderately serious wounds when two residents of the territories stoned his car in the vicinity of Elyaqim junction. His car swerved off course and collided with a tree. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the 29-year-old officer, who belongs to the Druze community and lives in the village of 'Isfiya, was first evacuated to Karmel Hospital, and later to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. The stone throwers managed to escape in a car.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2100 GMT on 5 December adds that "tonight, the body of Subhiyah 'Uwaydi, 37, was found near the Tulkarm District village of Fir'awn." The report adds that "the body bore marks of torture and abuse. Local residents said she had been killed in connection with moral corruption."

[The report adds that "in the al-Nusayrat refugee camp, masked men attacked Munir Hasan Ahmad, 28, with knives and axes. He was critically wounded and evacuated to a Gaza hospital."]

Badran, Iraq's Hammadi Discuss Mutual Interests

JN0512164990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister and member of the Revolution Command Council of Iraq, at his office this afternoon. Present were Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, and Dr. Ziyad Fariz, minister of trade and industry.

During the meeting they discussed a number of issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Amman.

Kuwaiti Delegation Briefs Press, Departs

JN0512134190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] In Amman, at the conclusion of their visit to Jordan, the members of the Kuwaiti popular delegation held a news conference today during which they reviewed the outcome of their contacts in Jordan. More details with our correspondent.

[Begin recording] The members of the Kuwaiti popular delegation commended the efforts being made by His Majesty King Husayn which aim at finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis that would spare the region a disaster in the eventuality of military confrontation.

In a news conference held in Amman this morning at the conclusion of their visit to Jordan, the delegation members said that they heard from His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, House and Senate members, and popular sectors whom they met with, the Jordanian viewpoint regarding the crisis. They added that they too explained their views on the crisis.

Answering reporters questions, Mr. Mubarak Duwaylah, former member of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, spoke about his impressions during his visit to Jordan. He said:

"To tell the truth, brothers, every individual who is loyal to this nation should advocate a peaceful solution, because the optimism which transpired through His Majesty King Husayn's statements really instilled optimism in our hearts, owing to his close, strong relationship with the decisionmakers who have a say in this issue. Therefore, we have emerged from the meeting with his majesty with a good impression and greater optimism that the crisis, God willing, will be resolved soon in the manner which is sought by the Arab and Islamic nation, and not that which our enemies want."

As for delegation member Muhammad Jasim al-Saqr, he said:

"We do not want destructive weapons to be used. We want peace. We also want to see the principle of international justice applied. Striking Iraq is striking the Arab nation; striking Iraq means destroying the Iraqi Army, which we believe should be directed against the Zionist enemy. Striking Iraq, moreover, means destroying Iraq and Kuwait and the Arab world. The entire world entertains ambitions in this region. We have not brought in the U.S. forces. I would like to add—and let us be practical—whether Saudi Arabia invited the U.S. forces or not, the Americans would have come to the region one way or another. The Americans have been talking for a long time about a scheme to be present around oil sources. They found a golden opportunity to be present there."

The members of the delegation called for Iraqi withdrawl from Kuwait and after that negotiation on resolving all pending issues between the two countries in particular, and the issues in the region in general.

The news conference was attended by a number of Arab and foreign correspondents. From the place of the conference Khalil al-Qaryuti greets you. [end recording]

Saudi Arabia Urged To Begin Talks With Iraq

JN0612094390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Dec 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Tongue-Tied Arabs"]

[Text] At a time when the wave calling for dialogue and negotiations to resolve the gulf crisis is expanding, contacts are intensified, and endeavors between the various capitals are made, the Arab parties allied to the United States maintain total silence toward the U.S. call for negotiations with Iraq, and express a great deal of confusion, dismay, and doubt about the meaning of the recent turn in Washington's position.

Although we understand some of the reasons behind the doubt prevailing the Arab capitals allied to the United States with regard to the possible developments of the Gulf crisis, especially since the United States did not bother to consult with these allies before suddenly calling on Iraq to negotiate with it, we cannot understand these Arabs' insistence to withdraw within themselves, and leave President Bush to negotiate on their behalf at a time when these parties that are directly concerned with the crisis can at least follow the European states' example.

To be more frank, we must say that Saudi Arabia, which has many of the keys of war and peace in the Gulf, shoulders the greatest responsibility at the present time, especially since it is the party that will be mostly harmed if the big confrontation breaks out, and the country with the greatest interest to maintain Iraq's military power to prevent a deep imbalance of power in the region.

Therefore, concern, duty, and a deep sense of responsibility prompt us to call on Riyadh to take its normal position at the table of dialogue and negotiations to which many people will be called during the coming few weeks, especially since Baghdad has continued to extend its strong hand for peace and good neighborly relations with Saudi Arabia, and to call for preventing any foreign intervention in the crisis that would complicate it and exploit it contrary to the higher interests of the Arab nation.

Hence, we cannot see Saudi Arabia standing with the war advocates and avoiding to enter the arena of dialogue to find an honorable solution to this intricate crisis. The war advocates have now become a minority, and Israel has become the most harmed from reaching a negotiated solution. Israel is openly speaking about the possibility of exploding the situation if signs of a peaceful solution begin to appear.

While reminding of Jordan's early call for a solution to the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework, we are today more confident than ever of the righteousness of this sincere pan-Arab position, which is the only means to bridge positions, find common denominators, and look for appropriate formulas that guarantee everyone's rights, without depriving anyone or sacrificing the higher interests of this nation.

Finance Minister Presents Draft Budget Law

JN0312144390 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 2 Dec 90

["General Budget Statement for 1991" read by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah in the House of Representatives in Amman on 2 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Mr. Speaker, esteemed representatives: It gives me pleasure to present to your esteemed Assembly the general budget's draft law for the 1991 fiscal year. This draft law is based on estimates of domestic and external revenues and the current and capital expenditures that take into consideration as much as possible the changes and circumstances resulting from the difficulties and challenges the Jordanian economy is facing as a result of the Gulf crisis and its financial and economic repercussions.

The fruitful discussions held in your esteemed council and by the financial committee on the general budget draft law for 1990 have enriched the bases and principles regulating and governing the general budget policy of our dear country. We hope that we have dealt with and included most of the ideas and principles in this draft law. I am perfectly confident that the discussion of this draft budget will contribute toward overcoming the difficulties that we are facing and help improve the performance of our development in order to reach our national goals and steer the ship of the Jordanian economy toward a safe destination.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed representatives: One of the principles of managing the national economy is sound assessment of the limited resources and the proper distribution of various investments in order to realize the highest returns at the lowest possible cost. We dealt with this point in preparing the draft law that we are presenting to your esteemed council, despite the fact that the financial requirements under the current circumstances are too great and cannot be met through available domestic resources and expected external resources. Therefore, the draft law presented to your esteemed council includes two budgets: The ordinary budget and an emergency budget.

The ordinary budget is a continuation of the policy followed in all previous annual budgets with certain additional changes in terms of organization and adaptation to new circumstances. The total estimated expenditure totalled 1,119.2 million dinars in comparison with 1,033.7 million dinars as a reassessment for 1990, an increase of 8.3 percent. The expenditures in the budget consist of the following:

1. Current expenditure estimated at 889.2 million dinars, a 5.2 percent increase over 1990, in order to increase national defense capabilitiesances and to continue to ensure basic services, especially in the fields of health, social services, and education, and in order to subsidize basic food commodities.

2. The capital expenditure amounts to 230 million dinars, a 22 percent increase over 1990. Most of this is earmarked for capital projects whose implementation needs domestic inputs with the aim of increasing economic growth and providing new job opportunities to tackle the effects of the crisis.

As for the emergency budget, which is estimated at 120 million dinars, its implementation depends on the availability of additional amounts in foreign grants, aid, and easy-term loans. It aims to increase the capacity of the national economy to enable it to deal with the effects and results of the crisis—to receive and absorb our sons who are returning from abroad, increase the ability to store strategic and basic commodities, and to provide external loans to finance that. No amount of this budget will be spent unless it realizes the expected revenues.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed representatives: As you are aware, Jordan began implementing the comprehensive national economic program in 1989 with the aim of halting the deterioration in Jordanian economic progress, restoring confidence in it, resuming growth in the gross national product, encouraging national savings, providing more jobs, reducing the budget deficit, preserving the dinar's exchange rate, rebuilding the Central Bank's foreign currency reserves, realizing a greater amount of local and external revenue, reducing the balance of trade deficit, and hence achieving a greater degree of self- sufficiency and self-reliance.

The initial signs during the first half of this year, which have been noted in the joint assessment made by government authorities along with specialized international institutions, indicate that Jordan made considerable progress in achieving the objectives of the program, and that the national economy actually began to recover and to witness healthy development in all sectors. Following is an initial evaluation of the basic components of the Jordanian economy and its indices during the first half of 1990:

A. The growth of the gross national product [GNP]:

According to the initial indices, the GNP showed an actual annual growth of not less that 1.5 percent during the first half of 1990, and that all economic sectors achieved satisfactory growth. The index figures of industrial production, which includes processing and metallurgical industries, increased by 5.5 percent. The quantity of agricultural products sold through central markets has increased by 18 percent, and agricultural exports by 26.2 percent compared with the first half of 1989. The construction sector has also seen a large increase in terms of the number of licenses and constructed areas, which increased by 28.4 and 22.5 percent respectively.

B. The performance of the general budget:

The deficit in the general budget of 1990, before foreign aid and financing, was estimated at 350 million dinars compared to 398.7 million dinars for 1989. However, the results that were achieved during the first half of this year showed that the deficit amounted to 59.7 million dinars only; or 17 percent of the deficit estimated in the budget of the whole year.

Domestic revenues in 1990 were estimated at 694.1 million dinars, while the actual revenues during the first half of this year amounted to 400.9 million dinars; or 57.8 percent of the revenues estimated for the whole year. Expenditures for 1990 were estimated at 1,094.2 million dinars, while these expenditures amounted to 472.7 million dinars during the first half of this year, or 43.2 percent of the expenditures estimated for the whole year. In short, revenues increased contrary to what was expected in the budget, and expenditures decreased contrary to what was allocated for them. Thus, the deficit was reduced and the actual financial achievement was much better than provided for in the general budget.

C. The deficit in the balance of payments:

The trade balance showed a noticeable improvement during the first half of 1990. The deficit in the trade balance decreased from $652.3 million during the first half of 1989 to $631.6 million during the first half of 1990; or by 3.2 percent. The increase in national exports from $434 million to $473 million; or by 8.8 percent, contributed to this.

Imports amounted to approximately $1,145 million during the first half of this year, compared to $1,140 million for the same period in 1989. Thus, imports have almost maintained the same level, although the embargo was lifted on the importation of some commodities as of 1990.

The services balance also showed tangible improvement during the first half of 1990 compared to the same period in 1989. The surplus increased from $348 million to $452 million, or by 29.9 percent. This was to due to the increase in the remittances of Jordanians working abroad from $266 million to $319 million, or 20 percent; the increase in tourism sector revenues from $80 million to $135 million, or 68.8 percent; and the increase in transport revenues from $122 million to $152 million, or 24.6 percent.

In general, the current account of the balance of payments showed a surplus of $150 million during the first half of 1990, while it recorded a deficit of $3 million dollars during the same period in 1989. This was due to the increase in the value of foreign aid to the treasury from $238 million to $317 million, or 33.2 percent.

Stability of the exchange rate of the jordanian dinar and rebuilding the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves:

Since 1989, the government has given special priority to maintaining the stability of the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar and rebuilding the kingdom's foreign currency reserves. In February 1990, the two-tier exchange rate applied in banking was discontinued and a single exchange rate was established for the Jordanian rate at the average price of 672 fils to the dollar. The exchange rate has stabilized since that date. Efforts also continued to build The Central Bank's foreign currency reserves. In June this year, these reserves reached about $646 mmillion compared to about $465 million at the end of 1989; or an increase of about 39 percent. These figures do not include gold and other currencies held by the Bank for bilateral payments operations.

D. Inflation:

The year 1989 was characterized by a tangible rise in the cost of living index due to the drop in the exchange rate of the dinar. However, the cost of living index for the first half of 1990 showed a satisfactory relative stability in prices. The cost of living index rose from 148.1 in the last month of 1989 to 154 in June 1990; an increase of 3.9 percent, or annual rate of less than 8 percent. The following are the upward trends of prices during the first half of 1990 for the main items constituting the budget of a low-income Jordanian family:

Foodstuffs	7 percent
Clothes and shoes	6.7 percent
Housing and home expenses	1.2 percent
Other commodities and services	1 percent

It is noteworthy that the general average of prices during the first quarter of 1990 showed an increase of 3.1 percent compared to the last quarter of 1989. This increase dropped to only 1.5 percent during the second quarter of 1990 compared to the first quarter of the same year.

Generally speaking, the state's overall economic policy has succeeded in controlling inflation within a relatively short period, a condition that is needed for economic stability, for restoring general confidence, and for resuming real development.

E. Unemployment:

The overall improvement in the economic activity in the kingdom during the first half of this year has provided more job opportunities in the national economy. Yet, this activity was insufficient to cope with the growing unemployment which the national economy is suffering from, especially unemployment among graduates from universities and community colleges. However, this activity has contributed to curbing growing unemployment despite the natural annual rise in the number of job-seekers, who are estimated to make up approximately 4.5 percent of the labor force.

Your esteemed House previously discussed this subject extensively during its extraordinary session. At that time, the government presented its report and assessment of the labor market and its developments, as well as the policies it deemed appropriate to cope with that problem. But the Gulf crisis and the return of a large number of the expatriates who were working in Kuwait will step up pressure on the labor market and increase unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, honorable representatives, the initial signs in July this year have shown a steady improvement in and revival of economic activity, an increase in production and national exports, a surge in remittances from Jordanians working abroad, and an improvement in local revenues. But the Gulf crisis, which broke out at the beginning of August, its negative impact, and the severe losses sustained by the national economy have hampered the economic reform and the driving force behind it, and created further heavy financial and economic burdens. If we take the results of the Gulf crisis into consideration, we can assess the initial signs for the year 1990 as follows:

1. A drop in the gross national product in fixed prices by 8.2 percent compared with drop in 1989. This drop reflects the extent of the severe losses sustained by our national economy, as well as the decline in most economic sectors, especially the touristic, transportation, industrial, agricultural, mining, construction, and trade sectors.

2. An increase in the deficit of the current account in the balance of payment for the year 1990 to reach approximately $600 million instead of the anticipated $250 million drop before the crisis. This led to a drop in exports by about $170 million, and a decrease in the surplus of the services budget by $617 million.

3. A drop in local revenues for the year 1990. These revenues dropped from the expected $790 million before the crisis to $746.1 million, corresponding to a 5.6 percent drop due to the effect of the Gulf crisis on most sources of revenue. The treasury's financial burdens are also expected to increase by 5 percent of the overall current expenditures in order to cover the costs of the foreign evacuees and the Jordanian expatriates who returned to Jordan.

4. A moderate rise [as heard] in cost of living figures as a result of a drop in the prices of vegetables and fruits and the satisfactory stable rate of exchange of the dinar. But the drop in the fares of transportation and insurance and the confusion in transportation to the Port of al-'Aqabah will have a negative effect on the cost of living.

5. Jordan's receipt this year of part of the easy-term aid and loans in compensation for the losses it has sustained as a result of the Gulf crisis will bolster the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves and maintain the stability of the dinar exchange rate.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed deputies: To cope with the crisis, his majesty the king and his highness the crown prince, as well as the competent government authorities, carried out intensive contacts with the United Nations and international and regional institutions to explain the detrimental impact on the Jordanian economy and citizens, and so applied for compensation in accordance with the UN Charter.

As a result of these efforts, the UN secretary general sent Mr. (Rapier) as his representative along with an official mission to assess the repercussions of the Gulf crisis on the Jordanian economy. The representative presented his report in October, in which he estimated the losses sustained by Jordan during the current year at no less than $730 million, and those for 1991 at no less than $200 million per month—assuming a continuation of the crisis. The report pointed out the failure of the international community to provide the necessary support for Jordan, and urged the international and regional institutions and member nations to come forward with prompt assistance. Also, representatives of the World Bank and the IMF have prepared realistic and objective assessments of the losses sustained by the national economy, projected at no less than $1,000 million this year, and $2,500 million for 1991. These reports were the outcome of intensive research and contacts by the government. It is to be recalled that Jordan was the first country to present realistic data and the necessary documentation to the United Nations and international and regional institutions with the object of receiving fair compensation for the financial losses it has sustained.

These efforts have resulted in pledges from various quarters—some final, others provisional—to provide assistance and soft loans to the treasury that should help Jordan through its difficulties as a consequence of the Gulf crisis. This may be summed up as follows:

First: $190 million to support the balance of payments and the treasury, of which $135 million is expected to be received by the end of this year, the bulk—$120 million—coming from Germany.

Second: An estimated $350 million worth of easy loans, of which $275 million will come from Japan. $65 million is expected to be withdrawn by year's end.

Third: In addition, the EC and its member nations have set aside approximately $2,200 million to indemnify the countries affected by the crisis, including Jordan. The EC share will be $680 million included in its 1991 budget.

The remainder of the sum will be made available by EC members through bilateral contacts in 1990 and 1991.

It is to be recalled in this connection that the bulk of the grants and loans will be devoted to funding Jordan's imports of commodities and foreign services. A limited part of the grants will be given in the form of goods. These loans and assistance are made available in addition to the loans and normal technical assistance usually provided by these nations and institutions to Jordan.

The government is still exerting efforts with the United Nations, world organizations, and a large number of countries in an attempt to compensate Jordan fairly for the losses it incurred as a result of this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed representatives: The government has taken several measures to counter the negative impact on the national economy. These include:

1. Implementing strict consumption rationalization programs including an amendment to the customs tariff, raising water and electricity charges for the higher sectors of the society, and raising the price of some oil products.

2. Rationalizing government spending through a cut in current expenditures and the introduction of a two-day public holiday per week—Thursday and Friday.

3. Giving priority to projects whose implementation depends on domestic inputs and intensive employment.

4. Continuing expansion in basic education and health services to meet the demands of returning expatriate Jordanians.

5. Reconsidering agricultural policies through such measures as leasing state-owned lands for nominal rents with a view to increasing land planted with strategic crops, and diversifying agricultural production.

6. Seeking alternative markets for Jordanian goods to encourage national exports.

7. Repaying some of the foreign loans in a selective manner. Every individual case will be studied in a manner appropriate to the financial and monetary situation and the Kingdom's interest in re-borrowing.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed representatives: The current circumstances resulting from the Gulf crisis have made it difficult to continue to implement the comprehensive national economic rectification program. This has compelled us to reconsider the program and begin drafting a new comprehensive economic framework for 1991-1995 to absorb the new developments, achieve domestic and foreign balance, and continue our advance toward independence.

This new economic framework assumes that stability will return to the region gradually during 1991. It adopts the following objectives and policies:

1. Ending the decline in the gross domestic product and resuming growth at gradually increasing rates during the years of the program. The national economy should generate more job opportunities.

2. Reducing the budget deficit—without calculating foreign assistance—gradually so that it cannot exceed 9 percent of the gross domestic product by the end of 1995. This will be achieved through more self-reliance and less reliance on foreign assistance.

3. Gradually reducing the balance-of-payments current account to achieve balance no later than 1997.

4. Planning national credit by setting ceilings for domestic and foreign governmental borrowing, and directing credits in accordance with the needs of the growth while giving priority to the productive activity of the private sector.

5. Absorbing Jordanians returning from abroad.

6. Finding alternative markets for Jordanian goods through an integrated program that includes:

A. Setting aside funds to finance industrial and agricultural investments through the existing loan establishments to support export production projects that require intensive employment.

B. Setting up a fund to guarantee the loans provided for those purposes.

C. Securing the necessary finance for promoting and opening new markets for national exports.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed representatives: Foreign debt, its servicing, and international trends:

Initial estimates indicate that unpaid foreign debts to which we are committed will amount to approximately $8.236 billion at the end of 1990. These are as follows:
—$7.072 billion in medium and long-term loans (owed or guaranteed by the government.)
—$40 million in short-term loans.
—$1.124 billion in installments that have been subjected to the rescheduling process. The total is $8.236 billion.

In 1990, $286 million has been paid out in settlement of foreign loans not subject to rescheduling. Also, new loans worth $462 million have been contracted, of which $137 million was guaranteed by the Government. The sums committed and yet to be withdrawn by the end of 1990 are estimated at $1,570 million, thus making the net balance of foreign debts, not withdrawn and yet to be settled, $6,666 million as against $6,611 million at the end of 1989.

Loans have been estimated in terms of the American dollar at its exchange rate against other currencies at the end of 1989, bearing in mind that 59 percent of the foreign debts are in currencies other than the dollar. Accordingly, the debts computed in terms of the American dollar in 1990 will increase in view of an increase in the exchange rates of these currencies during this year in relation to the dollar.

Since the early eighties, the international community has tried numerous solutions to the problem of debt, with many international institutions and conferences coming up with numerous initiatives. These initiatives, however, still fall short of addressing the problem comprehensively and effectively. They provide partial solutions to the debt problems of the poorer nations through forgiving part of their debts, but leave out such middle-income countries as Jordan.

Over the past few months, the Paris Club began a fresh study of the problems posed by the burdens of servicing the foreign debts owed by developing nations to government lenders. This might lead to an extension of the rescheduled debt settlement period and rescheduling the debts for many years in consecutive tranches for middle-income countries such as Jordan. The Government will try to avail itself of the facilities provided by the Paris Club in this respect. It will keep a close and continuous watch on the agreements concluded by the Paris Club and aim for the best terms offered.

The Government will follow the issue of rescheduling Jordan's foreign debts to commercial banks in an attempt to benefit from the best available methods, which should lead to a reduction in the debt or relieving their burden. These methods include:
- —Debt purchasing operations at reasonable discount prices.
- —Debt transformation to fresh investments serving the borrowing nation's development process.
- —Transformation of the debt to another debt without preferential terms so that it is paid back through the export of national goods or through local currency not subject to transfer overseas.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed deputies:

The records of the Ministry of Finance show that the local debt at the end of 1990 rose by 28.1 million dinars over 1989, as the table indicates:

1989	1990	
123.7	109.2	Internal loans from commercial banks and the Social Security Corporation
440.5	446.5	Loans of the general internal debt agencies
390	390	The Central Bank emergency loan
136.9	173.5	The Central Bank ordinary loan
1091.1	1119.2	Total

The government seeks to use the instruments of the internal general debt, which are specified by law and are internationally known, as a means to finance a part of the budget deficit. Therefore, the magnitude of the internal loans from the banking system has decreased by 14.5 million dinars in 1990, and borrowing remained within the limits permitted by the general debt law, the Central Bank law, and the general budget law for 1990. As for the increase in ordinary borrowing from the Central Bank to the treasury, which is 36.6 million dinars, it was within the ceiling permitted by the Central Bank law in accordance with the increase in the amount of local revenues in the general budget.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed representatives: Despite the great deterioration in national economic activity as a result of the Gulf crisis, certain fields in the national economy have shown a satisfactory ability to remain strong and accommodate some of the repercussions of this crisis, for example:

1. The ability of the treasury to provide the required funding for government expenditure without having to seek emergency loans, despite the negative disruption of the revenues. All budget provisions have been followed, except for subsidizing food supplies, which is estimated to reach about 92.5 million dinars; an increase of 32.5 million dinars due to the increase in world prices of most food supplies this year. This increase was offset by the loans extended by the U.S. grain program within the Supply Ministry trade account.

2. The ability of the Jordanian banking system to overcome the pressures to which the region and its banking system have been subjected.

3. Continuing to maintain a stable exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar to the dollar.

4. The availability of the necessary foreign currency to fulfill the essential needs of commodities, services, and all legitimate purposes.

5. Maintaining a relatively stabile cost of living average during the crisis, despite the increase in the costs of foreign imports.

6. The ability of the private sector to adapt to the new developments, and its ability to decrease its loses by searching for alternative opportunities.

7. The Jordanian citizen's acceptance of the policies and measures that the situation requires and his appreciation of the necessary sacrifices to overcome the hardships.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed representatives: In light of the above facts, the general budget law for the fiscal year 1991 was prepared and it was based on the following major principles and bases:

1. This draft law, as I have already mentioned, included two budgets. One is an ordinary budget that is considered a continuation of the policy followed in all previous annual budgets, and can be the budget of the first year of the new comprehensive economic program for the years 1991 to 1995. The second is an emergency budget

amounting to 120 million dinars, which aims at establishing an expenditure program that depends on medium-range policies that can accommodate the negative economic effects of the Gulf crisis, and the effects of the return of Jordanians working abroad so that they can become a source of support and strength for this economy, rather than a burden on it. This budget will be spent according to the following priorities:

1. To reactivate national exports of all kinds by finding alternative markets that would enable them overcome the hardships they are suffering.

2. To increase industrial and agricultural investments by providing funding through programs and funds that will be adopted to attain this. Special attention will be given to small industries and projects that employ large numbers of people.

3. To increase the storage capacity for strategic and essential commodities.

4. To implement additional infrastructure projects to provide the social services needed by Jordanian expatriates.

Financial revenues for the program will consist of grants, aid, and additional foreign soft loans. Expenditure on budget articles will depend on the availability of these revenues, in accordance with Cabinet decisions and the abovementioned priorities.

II. Considering the extraordinary circumstances and new developments resulting from the Gulf crisis and its expected repercussions on the national economy and impact on local revenues and foreign aid, the local revenues for 1991 are estimated at 702.5 million dinars, a decrease of about 5.8 percent of this year's revalued revenues. Had the crisis not taken place, these revenues would have amounted to about 870 million dinars and would have covered all current expenditure. This indicates that the estimated revenues for 1991 have declined by about 20 percent as a result of the crisis.

Foreign aid and grants for 1991 are estimated at about 150 million dinars, a drop of about 7.7 percent of the revaluation for 1990. This is according to the sums expected to be received to compensate Jordan for the effects of the crisis and support the balance of payment and treasury the end of this year and next year.

III. The allocation of necessary funds for the estimated expenditure in 1991, taking into consideration the following:

1. Earmarking the necessary funds for the support of our Armed Forces and reinforcing their defensive capabilities in order to enable them to continue to perform their national role. Their allocations for 1991 have been increased by 14 million dinars compared with 1990. An amount not to exceed 4 million dinars of these allocations has been set aside to bring back military hospitals under the Armed Forces' medical services.

2. Continuing to render satisfactory social services, especially in the field of health, education, and social care.

3. Continuing to provide basic foodstuffs at subsidized prices, taking care to channel the subsidy to those deserving it.

4. Increasing subsidies allocated to locally-produced grains in order to encourage their cultivation and increase production.

5. Supporting the judiciary by increasing its efficiency and expanding its base.

6. Earmarking the necessary allocations for the operation of the Health Ministry.

7. Effectively contributing to easing unemployment by giving it special attention through the following:

a. Earmarking the necessary funds to open up more than 4,000 new jobs, including 2,000 previous vacancies.

b. Allocating the necessary funds to enable the Vocational Training Corporation to train 40 percent more Jordanians in 1991 than was the case this year.

c. Increasing the allocation of funds for capital projects whose implementation requires domestic input and which provide more work opportunities.

8. Allocating sufficient funds for all types of maintenance in order to preserve and extend the use of the property of ministries and departments.

IV. Paying attention to organizational issues aimed at increasing financial control and scrutiny by detailing current expenses and unifying those that are similar. Therefore, these expenses have been reclassified in four groups instead of three as follows:

The first group: The group of salaries, wages, and allowances. It includes all expenses related to employees.

The second group: The group of operating expenses. It includes all expenses related to commodities and services required by the ministries and government departments in order to run their affairs.

The third group: The group of transfer expenditures. It represents the expenses paid to domestic or foreign quarters from the relevant department's budget.

The fourth group: The group of other extraordinary expenses such as furniture, equipment, machines. These expenses are disbursed to compensate the department for the consumed supplies.

An appendix was also added, including classification of capital projects in accordance with the kingdom's regions in implementation of the recommendation made by the financial committee of your esteemed House during its discussion of the draft budget law for the year 1990.

Mr. Speaker, honorable representatives: Proceeding from this basis, which has been adopted to define the dimensions of the budget for the year 1991, please let me explain the principal features of the ordinary budget included in this draft law.

First, revenues:

The local revenues are estimated to be 702.5 million dinars and the aid and grants to be $150 million. Thus, the overall current revenues will be 852.5 million dinars.

1. Capital revenues:

The installments of the loans to be repaid are estimated to be 50 million dinars. Thus, the overall estimated revenues for the year 1991 will reach 902.5 million dinars.

2. Expenditures:

Current expenditures: The expenditures of the civil service are estimated at 252 million dinars, the expenditures of the military are estimated at 269.5 million dinars, and the other expenditures, including subsidizing supply materials, loans surpluses, and pension expenditures, are estimated at 368.7 million dinars. Thus, the overall estimated current expenditures for the year 1991 will be 889.2 [figure as heard] million dinars.

Second, capital expenditures:

Expenditures of the development projects financed from revenues are estimated at 140 million dinars and expenditures of the development projects financed from loans are estimated at 90 million dinars. Thus, the overall estimated capital expenditures in the year 1991 will reach 230 million dinars. The overall expenditures for 1991 will be 1119.2 million dinars.

Third, the budget deficit:

By deducting the expenditures from the revenues, the budget deficit stands at 216.7 million dinars.

Fourth, the financing budget:

1. Sources of financing:

Loans for financing development projects are estimated at 90 million dinars, the loans extended by the international institutions are estimated at 192.7 million dinars, the loans for corn purchases are estimated at 42.9 million dinars, and the internal loans are estimated at 26.3 million dinars. Thus, the sources of the estimated overall financing for the year 1991 are estimated at 351.9 million dinars.

Usage of revenues:

The amount to be repaid to cover the budget deficit prior to the financing is 216.7 million dinars. The installments to be repaid on foreign loans reach 115 million dinars and the amount to be repaid for internal loans is 20.2 million dinars. Thus, the overall figure is 351.9 million dinars.

Mr. Speaker, honorable representatives, I conclude my speech by thanking all fraternal and friendly states and all those who have supported the economy of this steadfast country and enabled it to absorb the effects and results of the Gulf crisis, especially at this particular stage which is viewed as Jordan's most critical in economic terms. I am fully confident that this country, through the efforts and cohesion of its sons and through joint cooperation among all sectors, will initiate a change in the national economy to restore it to health and strength and begin a healthy and satisfactory development.

Mr. Speaker, honorable representatives, as it presents to your esteemed House the draft budget law for the year 1991, the government's plan for the next fiscal year, the government is confident that close cooperation with your esteemed House will be a solid basis for constructive dialogue and purposeful discussion so that this draft budget law can help us confront the great challenges facing our dear country and enable our national economy to succeed in order to continue the march of construction under the banner of the builder of the homeland and the patron of the march, His Majesty King Husayn, may God preserve him. Peace be upon you.

Hizballah, Palestinian Gunmen Movements Reported

NC0612085290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpts] A meeting was held yesterday between a Hizballah delegation led by Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli; [Hizballah security chief] al-Haj 'Abd-al-Hadi Hamadah; and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the security and intelligence service of the Syrian Forces. The discussion focused on the recent developments in Iqlim al-Tuffah and on how to surmount obstacles that have surfaced lately in order to ensure the withdrawal of gunmen from the area.

In this connection, last night a senior Hizballah source told AL-DIYAR that Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli informed Brig. Gen. Ghazi Kan'an that Hizballah refuses to withdraw from al-Luwayzah. The Hizballah Political Bureau had met to discuss this topic and decided to oppose withdrawal from the town and to reject the Army's deployment there.

According to the same source, the army command itself has been opposed to the Army's deployment in al-Luwayzah from the start because its geographical location is not essential to the plan drawn for the Army's deployment.

The source disclosed that the Palestinians have brought in an additional 300 gunmen to Iqlim al-Tuffah, and accused the Amal Movement of giving additional facilities to the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, there has been a positive development concerning the withdrawal of gunmen from Iqlim al-Tuffah. Approximately 100 Hizballah fighters have withdrawn from the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah. [passage omitted]

PSP Official Says Port at Government Disposal

NC0612112390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad, Progressive Socialist Party secretary general, has stated that the party said long ago that the al-Jiyah port is at legitimacy's disposal and that legitimacy can consider it a port under its control. We have no reservations in this regard, he said, adding: The ports in Khaldah and al-Jiyah were established to meet an urgent need. When this need no longer exists, our ports will be at legitimacy's disposal, and the government can take these ports over and deploy customs and public security officials in them.

Lt. Col. Fayyad expressed the hope that Greater Beirut will be a model for what legitimacy and the state can do. He said: We must note that the obstacles from the Lebanese Forces have greatly affected the brightness of this achievement.

Defense Ministry Confirms Control

NC0612064190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Defense Ministry sources have confirmed that the Army took over Beirut harbor yesterday and that the operation of that port is henceforth the responsibility of competent authorities. The same sources pointed out that the fifth dock will remain closed and will not be used.

Cabinet Convenes To Discuss Beirut, Iqlim Plans

NC0512192890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] During the cabinet meeting today, President Ilyas al-Hirawi emphasized that accomplishment of the Greater Beirut Plan is only the beginning of restoring the state's authority on all the Lebanese territory and applying law to everyone. The president stressed the need for reopening all of the crossing points, removing barricades, and ensuring services to the citizens.

Addressing the cabinet, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss stressed the need for following up the march and implementing all the steps that are bound to reunify the state and land and consolidate the achievements represented in the legitimate authority's control.

The cabinet underlined the Army's remarkable and responsible role in implementing the Greater Beirut Plan and reiterated the hopes pinned on the Army to consolidate the state's authority and safeguard the march of accord and peace.

While discussing the Iqlim al-Tuffah issue, the cabinet reiterated its determination to implement the security plan through the entry of the Army and the withdrawal of gunmen. The cabinet urged that exchanges be intensified so that this plan will be implemented with success.

The cabinet then studied all of the 35 topics listed on the agenda and adopted the necessary decisions.

Ministers Edmond Rizq, Nazih al-Bizri, and 'Umar Karami did not attend the cabinet meeting.

IJO Claims Responsibility for Israeli Attacks

NC0612130690 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpts] On the occasion marking the fourth year of the Palestinian intifadah, demonstrations denouncing Israeli massacres were staged in Sidon and the surrounding Palestinian camps. [passage omitted]

On the eve of the third anniversary of the Palestinian intifadah, and out of fear of further infilterations from Jordan, the Israeli occupation authorities have adopted a number of special measures. The measures were clearly noticed in Ramallah where an Israeli bus was attacked and three Israelis were wounded yesterday. Moreover, an

Israeli officer and a policemen were also wounded in al-Shaykh Radwan district in Gaza.

The Islamic Jihad Organization [IJO] in Palestine today claimed responsibility for two attacks with machine guns against an Israeli patrol in Gaza and against settlers in the West Bank.

In a statement distributed in Beirut, the IJO said that a member of one of its groups opened fire at an Israeli patrol in al-Shaykh Radwan district, wounding a Zionist officer and a soldier. Another member opened fire at and destroyed a bus near the township of 'Ayn Qiniya.

Israelis Reinforce in Eastern Sector

NC0612112990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] According to reports from the South, the Zionist occupation forces have reinforced their military deployment in the eastern sector following the escalation of resistance operations against the occupation in these areas. A REUTER report says that over the past few hours, 20 Zionist armored vehicles have moved to five positions in that region.

According to security sources, the occupation forces have sent large armored reinforcements to the areas of Marj 'Uyun and Hasbayya in the occupied border strip. A force made up of 40 vehicles and 250 troops has taken up positions in Zummarayya, Shwayya, 'Ayn Qinya, Zaghlah, Tallat Furayj, and Kawkaba.

Yesterday a large Zionist force conducted wide-scale combing operations in al-Litani and al-Qantarah.

Another force from the agents militia entered al-Khiyam town where it searched homes and arrested a number of citizens—including 'Adnan Amin—and took them to al-Khiyam prison.

U.S. Call For Mideast Peace Conference Reported

JN0612092490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] New York—The UN Security Council yesterday began discussing a draft resolution criticizing the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories. The Council also discussed a proposal made by the United States calling for convening an international conference on the Middle East to achieve a lasting peace in the region.

The U.S. representative at the Council also called for convening an international conference in Geneva to discuss the practices against the Palestinian citizens on the basis of the Fourth Geneva Convention, pertaining to the treatment of civilians in times of war.

Paper Says Iraqi Occupation Benefits Israel

JN0612102790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, 6 Dec (INA)—In an editorial entitled "You Have to Withdraw; Why Insist on Disaster?" the newspaper AL-BA'TH says that the Israeli rulers are greatly benefiting from the Iraqi action against Kuwait and are mobilizing all their resources inside and outside the United States to destroy Iraq and its army.

The paper cites in this regard yesterday's statement by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi in which he says that no solution can be imagined without directing a crippling blow to Iraq's military strength.

AL-BA'TH notes that any attempt to portray the UN Security Council resolution as a kind of pressure and that the military option is the last step will be a harmful attempt, particularly to those who are making it. The paper adds that despite the fact that the U.S. Administration, through President George Bush, has offered to receive the Iraqi foreign minister and discuss the crisis, subsequent statements did not leave any shadow of doubt that the United States has not eliminated military action from its calculations if Iraq does not respond to the UN Security Council resolution.

The paper affirms that the situation is very serious and there is no use turning a cold shoulder to it or belittling its consequences. The situation is extremely serious and the risk not only involves individuals or rulers but a country and an army for whom we and all the Arabs are greatly concerned.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: We tell our kinfolk in Iraq: You have to withdraw, why insist on disaster? Leave Kuwait before they force you out. Allow the Kuwaiti legitimacy to return before it is imposed on you. Take action to preserve Iraq before they destroy it. Heed the voice of reason and spare blood and weapons because the pan-Arab battle is not there. Righting one's wrong is a virtue but indulging one's wrongdoing is a crime.

Al-Asad Receives Qatari Trade, Economy Minister

JN0512105490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Hamad Al Thani, Qatari trade and economy minister, at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Mani' al-Hajiri, Qatari ambassador in Damascus.

The Qatari minister conveyed to his excellency the president the greetings of Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani. The president accepted the greetings and asked him to convey his greetings and wishes to his highness the Qatari amir and our fraternal people in Qatar.

Talk centered on the situation in the gulf and bilateral relations.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

JN0512165590 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 3 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Damascus, (SANA)—An agreement on economic cooperation and commercial exchange between Syria and Qatar was signed here on Sunday to develop and enhance relations between the two countries. It was signed by the Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Hamad Al Thani. The signing ceremony was attended by senior officials representing the two sides.

In a speech he delivered on this occasion, Dr. al-'Imadi said that the agreement is a progressive step towards further cooperation and integration of economic and commercial ties between the two countries. Dr. al-'Imadi stressed Syria's readiness to promote cooperation relations with Qatar with a view to achieving the Arab nation's ambitions to unity and economic integration.

In his speech, Sheikh Hamad stressed that the agreement is a qualitative upsurge in the existing economic relations between the two countries and further consolidation of fraternal and cooperation relations between the two countries towards economic cooperation not only between the two counties but among all Arab states.

The agreement, which comprises 12 items, aims at enhancing cooperation relations between the two countries in the economic and commercial fields and means of enhancing them to serve mutual benefits.

Minister Departs

JN0512170090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, 4 Dec (SANA)—Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Hamad Al Thani, Qatari minister of trade and economy, has expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit to Syria and the economic talks he held with a number of Syrian officials.

In a statement to the press before leaving Damascus today, the Qatari minister also said he was pleased with his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad during his three-day visit to Syria.

Paper Warns of Attempts To Stop Lebanese Army

JN0512110190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Dec 90

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN takes an interest in the Lebanese issue and devotes one of its commentaries to it. In the page devoted to Arab reports and news, the paper says: Israel will do its best to obstruct the legitimate government's efforts with a view to hindering the deployment of the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon. However, the international givens have changed. The subversive Israeli role has become well known and exposed. Besides, we do not believe that any international party will hesitate to support the Lebanese state's efforts to effect an Israeli withdrawal.

TISHRIN reiterates that the Syrian-Lebanese cooperation will continue and expand in the interest of the march of reconciliation and unity. The day when the Lebanese will enjoy security and stability is not far away, the paper concludes.

Editorial Cites Threats to Nonaligned Countries

JN0612081390 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 30 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Third World and the World Changes"]

[Text] The new world changes have placed the Third World face to face with a new reality characterized by increasing economic burdens and unjust international economic order.

The Asian and African states are the most adversely affected by the monopoly on production and marketing. This calls for comprehensive world changes so that the North's control over the South would not become tighter at a time when the North actually controls most political decisionmaking that renders the freedom of the developing and poor countries incomplete.

Because the political changes have actually affected the capabilities of the Third World and placed its countries, especially in Asia and Africa, in open confrontation with the imperialist giants, there exists a need to establish true blocs to develop the Nonaligned Movement's internal understanding and methods of action in a manner that preserves the Movement's independence, especially at a time when the language of the marketplace is dominant.

The whole of Europe is building the unified European house, and North America fears no one. This means there are common grounds among the countries of the North; namely, practicing financial tyranny by dividing the markets, industries, and wealth of the developing and poor states among themselves.

Asian-African meetings, therefore, no longer tolerate delay, especially since the countries of the two continents have something in common: They fear that colonialism may return to them through means and methods dictated by the requirements of the age!

We must face the fact that the Nonaligned Movement, which comprises most countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, now needs to renew its structure in accordance with the requirements of the new age, and in a manner that guarantees the freedom and independence of the Movement's countries.

If the Asian and African countries have wrested their independence through sacrifices, they are now facing challenges of new kind—challenges that may block their progress for a long time so that they continue to be a consuming market for the developed North.

Because abhorrent violence is no longer the basis and means of confrontation, economic blocs are the best guarantee and the correct way to establish a new economic world order void of hegemony and exploitation.

We in Arab Syria find nothing against the Asian and African countries binding themselves by new alternatives that enhance security, stability, and the march toward progress and development in all fields.

Foreign, Information Ministers Return From Cairo

JN0512164090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Information Minister Muhammad Salman returned to Damascus from Cairo this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Interim Leader Appointed; Emergency Lifted

Dissolution Of Parliament Urged

BK0512163790 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Awami League chief and eight-party [alliance] leader Sheikh Hasina has asked the government to immediately dissolve the illegal parliament and the cabinet to pave the way to hand over power to a neutral caretaker government. Addressing a big public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka today, she categorically said all programs, including the countrywide total siege program of December 10, 11, and 12 will continue unless the power is transferred to the neutral vice president to be chosen by the three alliances.

BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] chairperson and seven-party alliance leader Begum Khaleda Zia have called for people's unity till the ultimate objective of the present movement is achieved. Addressing a mammoth rally at Gulistan square in Dhaka today, she urged the people to preserve peace and discipline for consolidating the victory clutched by the people. Begum Zia urged the people to remain alert against any conspiracy of the vested quarters to deprive the people from reaping the benefits of the current anti-autocracy movement.

Alliances Call For Restraint

BK0512164390 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] The eight-party, seven-party, and five-party alliances have called upon the people to create an atmosphere of peace and harmony to ensure public security and check looting and attacks by miscreants and antisocial persons. In a joint call in Dhaka today, the three alliances also urged the people to be vigilant against any evil attempt aimed at creating disorder and anarchy in the country. The alliances called upon the people not to take law in their hands and said persons responsible for different kinds of crime during the reign of President Ershad will be tried. They urged the people to constitute Gana Sangram [people's struggle] Committee in every area of the country and ensure law and order by organizing conscious volunteers of the movement. The alliances stressed the need for continuing the present movement to establish a permanent democratic base, foiling any evil design to frustrate the victory against autocracy.

Interim Government Head Appointed

BK0612014690 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] It has been decided to appoint the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Shehabuddin Ahmed, vice president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The decision has been taken in the light of the president's announcement and combined decision of the political parties. Mr. Justice Shehabuddin Ahmed will become the acting president after President Ershad relinquishes his office and hands over power to him under the provisions of the Constitution. The Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] meets on Saturday [8 December] to ratify the appointment of the vice president. Mr. Justice Shehabuddin will head a neutral caretaker government for holding free and fair elections to parliament within 90 days of his assumption of office.

Leaders of the eight-party alliance and the seven-party combined have congratulated the chief justice, Mr. Justice Shehabuddin Ahmed, on his nomination to be the president of the caretaker and neutral government till elections.

Elections Within 90 Days

BK0612064890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] In Bangladesh, President General Ershad has dissolved the Parliament with immediate effect and directed the election commission to hold election for the next Parliament within 90 days. General Ershad issued orders to this effect this morning.

As reported earlier, the emergency in the country imposed on the 27th of last month has also been revoked. The chief justice of the Supreme Court, Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmad, is being appointed as the vice president who will act as the acting president till elections.

Begum Greets New Vice President

BK0612022490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] In a message, leader of the seven-party alliance, Begum Khalida Zia, has said Mr. Justice Shehabuddin Ahmed, [new vice president] is to take the responsibility of a stupendous task of restoring democracy in the country for which the people have suffered and sacrificed a lot. She expressed the hope that under his able leadership and guidance, (?government) will be able to hold free, fair, and impartial elections which is a prerequisite for setting democracy in motion.

New Vice President Hailed

BK0612130190 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] [Passage indistinct] announcement, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad became the acting president as soon as President Ershad relinquished his office and handed over power to him under the provisions of the constitution.

Earlier, the outgoing president dissolved Parliament with immediate effect. The president also asked the election commission to take measures for holding general election within 90 days as per constitutional provisions. The state of emergency was lifted.

Leaders of the eight-party and seven-party alliances have congratulated the chief justice, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin

Ahmad, on his nomination to be the president of the caretaker and neutral government of the country.

In a message, Wednesday [5 December] night, the eight-party alliance leader Sheikh Hasina said with the responsibility reposed on him democracy and people's right would be restored through his able guidance as the country's people's struggles for these basic rights over the years. She said a free and fair election is to take place under the able leadership of Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad with a view to setting the country in the path of democracy.

In her message, the leader of the seven-party alliance, Begum Khaleda Zia, said Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad is to take the responsibility of the stupendous task of restoring democracy in the country for which the people have suffered and sacrificed a lot. She expressed the hope that under his able leadership and guidance, he will be able to hold a free, fair, and impartial election which is the prerequisite for setting democracy in motion.

Celebrations in Dhaka

BK0512165990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The entire capital city of Dhaka today turned into a vast sea of jubilant humanity in historic mass upsurge to celebrate the victory of heroic struggle of the people for restoration of democracy. Rejoicing people in thousands came out on the streets chanting slogans hailing the end of autocracy. Big processions with colorful festoons, banners, placards and pictures of national leaders came from different parts of the city and converged into the Purana Paltan square which became the center of a series of meetings. The processionists demanded trial of those responsible for various misdeeds. The main attraction of the jubilation of the cultural program organized by Sammalita Sanskritik Jote. [passage omitted]

A touching scene was witnessed when armed forces personnel and the jubilant people exchanged warm greetings at several points in the city. As the Army convoys were passing by, the people rushed to them and shook hands with the jawans [soldiers] who also reciprocated the feelings by either shaking hands or raising hands [words indistinct] to the people. Reports of similar jubilation have been received from different parts of the country, including Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and other district towns.

State of Emergency Lifted

BK0612011890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The president has revoked the proclamation of state of emergency forthwith. This was officially announced in Dhaka last night.

The state of emergency was imposed on the 27th of last month.

University Classes To Resume

BK0612022690 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka University classes resume on Saturday [8 December]. This was decided at an emergency meeting of the synidicate in Dhaka yesterday with Vice Chancellor Muhammad Maniruzamman Mian in the chair. The meeting has directed the hall [hostel] adminstrations to reopen the halls immediately. The syndicate has also asked all teachers, students, officers, and employees of the university to attend the victory celebrations to be organized by the All-Party Students Unity on Saturday.

Newspapers Reappear After Eight-Day Strike

BK0612053890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0515 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Dec 6 (AFP)—All newspapers reappeared here Thursday after an eight-day strike, focussing on popular celebrations at the decision of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to step down but warning that difficult times still lay ahead.

The pro-government BANGLADESH TIMES and DAINIK BANGLA prominently displayed photographs of the two top opposition leaders—Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League and Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party—wearing broad smiles, and of the unprecedented nationwide jubilation.

The journalists had gone on strike in protest at Mr. Ershad's decision to declare a state of emergency and impose press censorship November 27. The emergency restrictions were lifted late Wednesday after Mr. Ershad agreed to hand over power to a vice-president selected by the opposition. [Passage omitted]

The BANGLADESH TIMES said in a front-page editorial headlined "Majesty of the Masses" that the country had "acquired the ability during the period of its existence to ascend to a higher plateau to begin a journey towards greater freedom, peace and progress."

"Peoples' power has triumphed," it said, adding that the "regime of President Ershad has collapsed before the majesty of the masses and it ends as soon as the formalities for transition to a caretaker government are completed."

The DAINIK BANGLA said "the victory must be consolidated" and that December 1990 would be an unforgettable chapter in the history of Bangladesh. But it cautioned that along with the victory "there is a necessity to be prepared to bring home the harvest and to preserve it." The leading BANGLADESH OBSERVER also commented that "however strong the sense of victory—understandable—the nation cannot afford to forget that both political peace and economic progress are its first general priorities."

The mass-circulation daily ITTEFAQ praised the military for its role in expediting the fall of Mr. Ershad. "The people of Bangladesh have created a new history," it said, but warned that it is more difficult to hold the victory than to achieve it. It is the sacred responsibility of all to uphold the current democratic process, keeping it above all kinds of party matters."

India

Spokesman Hopes for Free Polls in Bangladesh

BK0512161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] India has expressed the hope that the latest developments in Bangladesh would lead to the full exercise of democratic rights by the people in that country. In a statement, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi that India hopes that a way will be paved for free and fair elections in Bangladesh and the conditions acceptable to all political parties.

Passive Protest Planned at Disputed Temple

Security Arrangements Made

BK0512131390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, elaborate security arrangements have been made in Ayodhya and Faizabad in view of the proposed satyagraha [passive protest] by kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] tomorrow. Additional security forces have been deployed in and around Ayodhya. An official spokesman in Lucknow said that national security guards have been posted around the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] site. Closed circuit TV sets have also been installed at various points to monitor the law and order situation and a senior police official of the rank of director general is personally supervising the security arrangements.

Political Parties Meeting

BK0512132390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] A meeting of various political parties held in New Delhi today reviewed the developments relating to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [dispited shrine] issue. It was chaired by the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar. Others who were present included the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal; the finance minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha; the petroleum and chemicals and parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. S.P. Malaviya; and the minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay from the government side; and V.P. Singh and Professor Madhu Dandavate from Janata Dal; Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mr. Indrajit Gupta and Mr. M. Farooqi, both CPI; and Mr. Santosh Bagodia, Congress-I.

The meeting appreciated the beginning of a direct dialogue between the two sides involved in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute. It hoped that the process would lead to a peaceful and negotiated settlement to the satisfaction of all concerned. The leaders appealed to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] to give up their program of satyagraha [passive protest] scheduled for tomorrow so that the dialogue could go on in a cordial atmosphere. The meeting appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony and peace.

The leaders also discussed the situation in Punjab, Kashmir, and Assam and decided to meet again to consider these problems in detail.

Arrangements For Protest

BK0512170490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpts] A meeting of major political parties have appealed to the BJP [Bharatia Janata Party] and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council—VHP] to give their program of satyagraha [passive protest] at Ayodhya so that the ongoing dialogue on the temple issue can continue in a cordial atmosphere. The meeting presided over by the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, in New Delhi also appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony and peace. The leaders of the Janata Dal-S [Socialist], Janata Dal, Congress-I, CPI [Communist Party of India], and CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], attended the meeting which lasted nearly three hours. It hoped that the dialogue between the VHP and the Babri Masjid action committee will lead to a peaceful and negotiated settlement to the satisfaction of all concerned. [passage omitted]

Briefing newsmen, the official spokesman said more political parties will be invited for the next round of talks on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue to be held soon. The meeting also discussed the situation in Punjab, Kashmir, and Assam and decided to meet again to consider problems of these states in detail.

The Janata Dal-S spokesman, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya told reporters that the BJP was not invited to the meeting as its leadership is for building a temple at the disputed site. He said the views of the law ministry will be ascertained on the Congress-I suggestion to refer the Ayodhya temple dispute to the Supreme Court.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani have, however, said that their satyagraha program in Ayodhya tomorrow would take place as scheduled. The VHP said the first batch of kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] have already left New Delhi for Ayodhya.

Meanwhile, the prime minister has been holding separate meetings with religious leaders from both communities. Mr. Chandra Shekhar met a delegation of the Babri Masjid Movement Coordination Committee led by Mr. Shahabuddin. The delegation included Professor Saifuddin Soz, Maulana Seyyed Ahmad Hussaini, Mufti Shamsuddin and Mr. Quthbuddin. The delegation was requested to submit to the minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, whatever documentary evidence they have in support of their claim on the temple issue.

Later in the evening, the prime minister had a meeting with the VHP president, Mr. V.H. Dalmia and a senior RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh] leader, Mr. (Morappan Pingley) and BJP MP [member of parliament] Dr. J.K. Jain. He reiterated his appeal for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the issue. He said the beginning of a dialogue between the leaders of the two communities is a welcome sign and nothing should be done to damage the prospects of the negotiated settlement.

The deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, has appealed to all political parties, religious leaders and fellow citizens to contribute their mite to help find an amicable solution to the Ayodhya issue. In a statement, he urged the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in particular to conduct its proposed satyagraha at Ayodhya tomorrow in the true spirit of satyagraha as evolved by Mahatma Gandhi.

In Uttar Pradesh, elaborate security arrangements have been made to maintain law and order in Ayodhya in view of tomorrow's proposed satyagaraha. The state home secretary told our Lucknow correspondent that 70 companies of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] have been deployed in Faizabad and Ayodhya. Traffic restrictions have been imposed. However, trains will run as per schedule without deviation. The home secretary said bhajan, keertan [chanting religious hymns], and darshan [view] at Ram Janmabhoomi will continue uninterrupted. He said the kar sevaks will be allowed in batches to have darshan and offer prayers.

Leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal have directed kar sevaks to maintain peace. A Bajrang Dal spokesman said in Ayodhya that all kar sevaks will be provided with identity cards to prevent the infiltration of antisocial elements.

The Delhi police today banned the use of audio casettes containing inflammatory speeches on the Ayodhya temple issue. The ban, which will be enforced for 60 days, covers the distribution, sale and possession of the cassette. A police press release said that this step has been taken in view of the prevailing tension.

Protest Begins

BK0612090590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] In Ayodhya, the satyagraha [passive protest] program for kar seva [voluntary service to build a temple] began a short while ago. Two hundred women kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] from Rajasthan courted arrest. The situation is peaceful.

Earlier, about 25 kar sevaks reached the main gates of the disputed complex and were trying to enter the area. The police tried to prevent it. Second time, about a dozen kar sevaks also tried to sneak into the Ram Janmabhoomi complex. Police had a hard time to push them back. The situation cooled down when the kar sevaks were allowed to have the darshan [a view] of the deity in the disputed complex. The disputed complex is being heavily guarded by the security forces from all sides.

The president of the Ram Janmabhoomi Mukti Yagya Samiti [a Hindu organization], Mahant Avaidyanath, MP [member of parliament] told our correspondent in Ayodhya that the satyagraha program will be peaceful in the coming days also.

Volunteers Rush Shrine

BK0612075090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in Ayodhya is reported normal. The state home secretary said in Lucknow today that the proposed satyagraha [passive protest] has not yet been started. He said about 400 kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers], assembled at the Dera Baba Ashram, are indulging in raising slogans and insisting to start the kar seva [voluntary service to build a temple] at the Ram Janmabhoomi shilanyas [temple foundation stone] site. He said that over 100 kar sevaks belonging to the Shiv Sena [Hindu fundamentalist organization], who lined up this morning to offer prayers at the idol of Sri Ram, suddenly rushed to the disputed site to undertake kar seva. The security personnel on duty took them into custody.

Meanwhile, the district administration is working out the modalities to cope up with the situation arising out of the satyagraha and kar seva in Ayodhya.

Chandigarh Radio Station Director Shot Dead

BK0612070590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The station director of All India Radio [AIR], Chandigarh, Mr. Rajendra Kumar Talib was shot dead by two terrorists a short while ago. Mr. Talib, 54, was at his residence when the terrorists opened fire on him.

Our Chandigarh correspondent reports that Mr. Talib, though a handicap, is a very good Urdu poet. He was given an award for his outstanding contribution in Urdu literature by the city club of Chandigarh.

Mr. Rajendra Kumar Talib has been serving the AIR Chandigarh station since the beginning of his career.

Three Die in Andhra Pradesh Police Shooting

BK0512161790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, three people were killed and 20 others injured, when police opened fire to control a violent mob in Narmada village in Warangal District today. The mob, which was demanding the release of a Naxalite [Maoist guerrilla] activist, became violent and fired at the policemen, seriously injuring three of them. The body of a forest guard taken hostage last night by the Naxalites was found in Govindraopeta village today. The Naxalite activist, whose release was demanded by the mob, has been granted bail.

A PTI report from Warangal says 12 more people were kidnapped by the Naxalites today. They include an assistant engineer and a mandal [local] education officer.

Iran

Khamene'i Stresses Factional Unity

LD0512192890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpts] A sincere gathering of the officials and executives of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran was held this morning in the presence of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, at Hoseyniyyeh Imam Khomeyni. May he be admitted to god's paradise. They were accompanied by the heads of the three powers [executive, legislative, and judiciary] and Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

At the meeting—attended by all the officials and outstanding and high-ranking authorities of the executive, legislative, and judicial establishments of the country—the exalted leader offered valuable guidance in an address to them and explained the role of people in the survival of the regime and continuation of the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i termed the Islamic regime a divine gift to the people of Iran, the world Muslims, and the deprived. He said: To thank God for such a valuable blessing and divine providence we must know our duties; we must also march on the path of Islam wholeheartedly and through performing our duties. We must be mindful of the path on which we stand; we must never forget our objective, not even for a single moment. In his remarks he said that diversion [from the path of virtue] begins when one indulges in being self-centered rather than thinking of God as being central to everything else. He said: State officials shoulder a heavier responsibility than others. In the future, the people of this country and Muslims, and history as a whole, will sit in judgment on us. In addition to the trial of history we must also be answerable to God. [passage omitted]

Referring to the commitments of the Islamic government toward the lives of the people—as well as toward the social system and thought, culture, and all social relations and the style of governance—the leader of the Islamic revolution said: Islamic revolution carries a specific meaning in which executives work for God and Islam; they regard themselves as servants of the people in the true sense of the term. Therefore, the officials of the regime in Islamic Iran must serve as models for others with regard to observance of thrift, virtue, and lack of interest in the luxuries of temporal life, the acme of such characteristics being self-restraint. Our success in encouraging society to shun consumerism and free itself from the reflections of Western culture hinges on our own deeds. The officials of the country must teach the art of being uninterested in unnecessary ceremonies and luxuries and, in a word, disregard for temporal life to other people through practice. [passage omitted]

Therefore, we must find a mechanism through which officials of the state will truly see themselves as servants of the people and perform their duties on that basis.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i announced that the main thrust of the country's policies in all executive, legislative, and judicial fields is the effort to secure and protect the interests of the deprived classes in society. He added: On the basis of Islamic concept, all the blessings and resources in a society belong to all the people; and the rights of those who live in poverty and deprivation must be redeemed. This is basic duty in our executive affairs and policies. If we succeed here, then great God will be happy with us. [passage omitted]

Stressing the fact that unity of word guarantees the success of all collective moves, he said: The Islamic regime is a great, divine, and historic movement whose dimensions are not confined to the boundaries of the country and the constraints of the present time. The emergence and growth of that sapling in our country has materialized under the conditions in which the world powers have managed to arm themselves to an extent never seen before; and never in history have they monopolized the possession of technology and instruments of coercion as they do today. We live at a very strange and sensitive juncture of history in which Islam has become the target of the animosity of arrogance and its calculated planning. Yet as our great imam has said, the powerful and guiding hand of God always supports this revolution and this nation. That is the reward for our nation's efforts and self-sacrifices.

The honorable leader graciously said: Currently the enmity, hostility, and confusion of the enemies of Islam are more [extensive] than they were at the outset of the revolution. Elaborating on the influence of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Revolution on Muslim nations, he said: Today the enemies of Islam have realized that the victory of our revolution was a great event on the basis of which Muslims throughout the world gained [a new] personality, and forgotten ideals such as the freeing of the Beit ol-Moqqadas [Jerusalem] have revived once again. The enemies of Islam have completely comprehended the clear role of the Islamic revolution in the collapse of the Marxist empire and the East bloc, and also the threat to the global domination system; therefore their enmity and hostility have increased in comparison to the past.

The leader of the Islamic revolution reiterated the need for maintaining vigilance and avoiding negligence toward the enemies of Islam. Continuing his remarks, he criticized the so-called Muslim governments of the region who have opened the doors of the Persian Gulf to America. He said: America grants itself huge privileges in that task, and its expedition to the Persian Gulf is along the same lines. As for the governments who see themselves in danger, their seeking protection from America stems from their acceptance of humiliation and lack of spirit of confidence and belief.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, referring to the sensitivity of the present conditions, stressed the importance of the issue of unity. Addressing those who have placed themselves in two different factions on the basis of contrasting views and differences in their tastes, he said: In our free Islamic society, plurality of opinion and taste is necessary and unavoidable. But if such plurality goes beyond bounds, then it will definitely serve the interests of the enemy. Limitations should be observed when parties express their opinions, and they should not reach a point which results in delighting the enemy. The open platform of the Islamic Consultative Majlis is a credit to the Islamic Republic, from which no word should be uttered that causes the delight of the enemy.

Terming the two existing political groups in the country a single front that believes in Islam, the Imam, and the ideals of the Islamic revolution, and referring to the hostility of the enemies of Islam toward both groups, he said: In our country there only exists one faction which believes in the Imam, the revolution, and Islam. Those who believe in the Islamic system and work for it are all on the same path and pursue the same goals, and both factions are equally indebted to the revolution. Any political tastes they may have all belong to the faction which supports Islam and the revolution. Therefore, group differences and internal squabbles among themselves are allowed up to the point that their joint front against the enemies of Islam is not weakened. They should know that our glory, our life, our survival, and also the achievement of our great and holy ideals all depend on that issue.

The leader of the Islamic revolution termed the messages and the will of the world of Islam's late great imam as eternal lessons for the Ummah and the officials of the system. Addressing those present at the meeting, he said: The revolution owes debt to no one, and we, who have the opportunity of being in the forefront of this revolution, are indebted to it more than any other person. I see myself as a servant of the people and am proud of it. The safeguards and export of the revolution depend on solving the problems of the country, and all of us are dutybound to protect this system, to support the government, and to solve the problems of the country.

The honorable leader termed the support for those who serve the country, and in particular the support for government and the responsible organizations, as a principle duty. At the end of his remarks he prayed for the officials' friendship and their ever-growing closeness, and the enlightenment by the divine light of every individual Muslim's heart.

Before the remarks of the honorable leader, President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani made some brief remarks in which he elaborated on the country's economic situation. Referring to the working opportunity and the extensive efforts which face the capable and ready manpower in the country, he said: God Almighty has returned their evil [the enemies of Islam] to themselves and they are at each others' throats; we consider that as a divine blessing to us. Under present conditions, it is necessary for those at the service of the system and all individuals of the people to adopt a coordinated policy to move ahead from the present stage in order to be able to register in history a correct base for Islam.

The president termed the removal of economic obstacles by the people and the officials during the imposed war as an adroit move. He continued: We have seen difficult stages and have managed to protect the country from a horrible enemy invasion, and now is the time to work and make efforts. With regard to the secure resources at hand, through hard work and endeavor, as well as the proper use of those resources, we will be able to further secure the revolution and the system and promise a clear future to our noble nation. We will be able, at the end of the country's 10-year reconstruction plan, to present facts and figures and prove that we are the most secure and stable country from the economic, political, and ideological points of view.

At the end of his remarks Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed the vali-e faqih [vice regent of the juriconsult] as the most significant and most valuable axis for the movement of the system, and expressed the hope that with the help, support, and guidance of the honorable leader, the officials of the country will be able to move the country forward from the present stage. [passage omitted]

Velayati To Meet Mitterrand, Dumas in Paris

LD0512163190 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5 IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left for Paris today on an official visit at the invitation of his French counterpart Roland Dumas.

Velayati will discuss mutual relations and international issues with President Francois Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Dumas during his two-day stay in the French capital.

Iran, France Differ on Ways To End Gulf Crisis

LD0512145890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Today Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister of our country, will be leaving for France for a two-day visit. He will be accompanied on this trip by Mr. Va'ezi, deputy minister for Europe and America, and in charge of the file concerning financial disputes between Iran and France. Mr. Velayati will be meeting with Francois Mitterrand and Ronald Dumas, France's president and foreign affairs minister respectively. Financial disputes between the two countries and the expansion of economic and cultural relations are the main topics which will be discussed in the sphere of mutual relations.

International and regional issues arising from the Persian Gulf crisis, and the situation in Lebanon and Afghanistan, are also among the topics which are expected to be discussed.

Relations between Iran and France have been steadily expanding during the past few years. Within the framework of the country's five-year expansion plan, the contribution made by French firms and financial institutions is quite substantial, and this trend continues to expand. The recent trip by the French minister of trade and regional cooperation to Iran aimed at expanding political and economic relations, and demonstrated the political resolve of both sides to expand relations even more. Financial disputes between the two countries have up to now slowed down the restoration of good relations. The officials of the two countries, however, have shown a willingness to finally solve these disputes, especially in the past few months.

The Persian Gulf crisis has also proved more clearly than before the strategic importance of Iran in this sensitive region, and has made it necessary for certain European countries to revise their former stance toward our country. With its vast material and human resources, Iran is among the countries of the region with the most potential and, as a strong partner to France, can doubtless have some constructive cooperation.

These same factors have been influential in persuading other countries, including France, to restore relations. On the other hand, Iran and France both agree in principle in not supporting the military option in order to end the Persian Gulf crisis. They also agree in principle that these countries themselves should be responsible for the establishment of security in the region, and this is while there are differences between Tehran and Paris over the question of a peaceful solution to the crisis by offering certain concessions to Iraq. The impression gained from remarks made by French officials is that France would not mind the Iraqi crisis ending by granting territorial concessions. And we, Iran, have repeatedly declared our opposition to any kind of geographical changes in the region.

Nevertheless, a variety of spheres exist for economic and political cooperation between the two countries, and we can see from the expanding trend of contacts that the two countries wish to expand these relations.

Velayati Receives Palestinian Leaders, Sha'ban

LD0512143690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Outstanding personalities and leaders of the combatant Palestinian groups, comprising Khalid al-Fahum [Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) secretary general], Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha—Fatah Uprising leader], Abu-Mahir Yamani [PNSF official], Muhammad Khalifah [deputy leader of al-Sa'iaqh], 'Arabi Awwad [Palestinain Revolutionary Communist Party leader], and Ahmad Jibril [PFLP-General Command secretary general], met and conferred with [Foreign Minister] Mr Velayati this morning. In the course of this meeting the main topic of discussion was the situation in the occupied territories, current developments, and the worldwide Islamic struggle against aggressive Zionism.

Also during this meeting, the outstanding Palestinian leaders, referring to the continuous migration of Jews to the occupied territories, described it as a joint conspiracy of Zionism and the United States and reiterated the need for unity among all the Islamic and national forces to confront this conspiracy. They unanimously agreed that holding the first Islamic conference in Tehran is a decisive step in the anti-Zionist struggle, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is now the focal point [khastgah] of this struggle.

Mr Khalil al-Buka, one of the leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine, HAMAS, also met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati this morning. In the course of this meeting Mr al-Buka presented a report on the present situation in the region, current developments in Palestine, and the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine in the occupied territories. He explained the principled stances of HAMAS. While stressing that the anti-Zionist struggle will not reach any conclusion without Islam, he added: The Islamic forces should continue the jihad against Israel by maintaining their unity and solidarity. He further added that Iran's efforts toward the Palestine issue stem from its commitment and its feeling of responsibility.

Afterward Mr Velayati praised the jihad of the Palestinian Muslims and the effective role played by HAMAS.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban [Islamic Unification Movement leader], the prominent Lebanese clergyman, at a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati this morning expressed delight for attending the first Islamic conference on Palestine in Tehran. He also expressed hope for the creation of worldwide islamic unity on the path of liberating occupied Palestine, the anti-Zionist struggle, and realizing the objectives of the current conference.

Afterward Mr Velayati stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran will employ all its possibilities on this path. He reiterated the need for cohesive unity of the Islamic world as a strategic factor [as heard].

Conference on Palestine Continues

Arab Visitors Speak

LD0512151890 Tehran IRNA in English 1436 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—Speakers at the first international Islamic conference on Palestine here today disclosed the plots of the illegal state of Israel, and stressed on the need to uphold the 'intifada' of Palestinian Muslims against the Zionist usurpers.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban leader of Lebanon's Islamic Unity [Tawhid] Movement told Wednesday's session that the Islamic revolution concerns more than one billion Muslims throughout the world.

He added that he had vowed allegiance to Imam Khomeyni and to Ayatollah Khamene'i "as a religious duty."

Sayyid Muhammad-Baqir Hakim leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said "speaking of war or Zionism, it will be remembered that Arab Muslims will never evade their responsibility in relation with (their struggle against) Israel."

He said Islam is the only haven to Muslims and by relying on it they can rid themselves of the shackles of bondage.

Khalil al-Ghughah, representative of the HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] which directs the uprising in occupied Palestine, vowed that Muslims "will take back Palestine."

He said struggling against the Zionists is part of the faith of Islam.

'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad Sudan's minister of education said the issue of Palestine should be disengaged from the political framework and should be brought up as a religious issue for Muslim forces to rally behind it.

He stressed on the need for creating a central leadership for the Muslim world, saying that "to deal with such problems as that of Palestine would need a centralized (universal) Islamic leadership to direct Islamic movements from a single source."

The Sudanese minister emphasized on the importance of the mobilization of Muslim forces against the plots of the enemies, and called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to proceed to organize the nucleus of an "Islamic armed forces".

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Conference

LD0612090490 Tehran IRNA in English 0757 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, son of the late founder of the Islamic Republic Wednesday criticized the U.S. and Britain for providing the Zionist regime with arms and the Soviet Union for not giving arms to the Palestinian Muslims.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam who was addressing the foreign guests here for the first Islamic conference on Palestine, further lashed out at the Soviet Union for sending Soviet Jews to the occupied Muslim lands and termed it a great treachery against the Palestinian Muslims.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni said that the Islamic uprising of the Palestinians 'intifadah' is the key to the Palestinian problem and urged world Muslims to assist them and impose economic and political sanctions on the Zionist regime.

Stressing that the Jewish minority in Iran enjoys equal status with the Muslims and are treated equally, he said that the issue of the Jew is totally separate from Israel and Zionism.

The participants also visited the holy shrine of Imam Khomeyni in southern Tehran and paid homage to the late leader of the Islamic revolution.

The 3-day conference which opened here last Tuesday is to coordinate the struggle of the Palestinian Muslims against the regime occupying the Holy Quds.

President Inspects Plant, Comments on Sermon

NC0512130790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] After his nine-hour inspection tour of Iran's Khodrow Company and a telecommunications center, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke to our correspondent on these two industrial and scientific-research centers.

Referring to the reactivation of the country's industry after the imposed war, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the activation of the automobile plant and the commencement of the production of a variety of automobiles as a sign of this industry's progress in Iran. Pointing to the commencement of the production of Peykan cars with Peugeot 504 and 505 engines, he said: In the first phase of this increase in production, the commitments undertaken toward the people and the institutions should be met and some cars should be placed on the market.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The most significant point, however, was the manufacturing of buses and minibuses which commenced without delay. Pointing to the importance of bringing the country automobile-manufacturing technology, the president emphasized the need to design and manufacture all spare auto parts in the country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani remarked that the telecommunications center is a good asset for the country and said: This center is equipped with experts who receive news, photographs, and films. However, the important point is to establish contact with a main center, and in the future we should establish our own satellite contact with the most modern satellites so as to receive information daily.

In answer to our correspondent's question on his recent remarks on social relations during his Friday prayers sermon, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out: The hezbollah and full-fledged forces in the society on whom the Islamic Revolution leans and who have suffered many deprivations to create this current society should not be deprived of the revolution's blessings while others enjoy the fruit of these forces' efforts. He added: The comment of some is that we have called for extravagance and luxury; however, in the two past sermons we discussed how to negate these. The recent sermon was to correct these sermons so that the pious should not think that they should reject extravagance and luxury and make do with the ascetic life that the hezbollahis had during the war.

The president said that the second point of his remarks in his Friday prayers sermon was to meet the natural needs of humans, and he remarked that the teachings make reference to permanent and temporary marriages, pointing out: Temporary marriages were introduced into society in order to ensure the healthiness of permanent marriages and the family. It is among the miracles of Islamic law which allows temporary marriages in order to prevent the marriage annulments and social corruptions that can be seen in most societies.

Yazdi Questions UN Stand on Human Rights

LD0212190290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judicial power, at a meeting today of the judicial authorities referred to the crimes of the Zionist regime in the occupied territories. He said: The crimes of the Zionist regime continue in various forms. Unfortunately, it is not clear whether the United Nations can be effective with its weak response.

Referring to UN Human Rights envoy Mr. Galndo Pohl's false report on the human rights situation in Iran, Mr Yazdi said: Mr. Galindo Pohl's report on the human rights situation in Iran does not stem from his unfamiliarity with Islamic principles only; rather he has been influenced by the pressure of global powers.

Mr. Yazdi also offered condolences on the anniversary of the demise of Fatimah [prophet Muhammad's daughter]—peace be upon her—and called upon Muslim women to follow the example set by the esteemed daughter of the noble prophet. May God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his companions.

Delegation Returns From Border Talks With Iraq

LD3011152590 Tehran IRNA in English 1431 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—An Iranian delegation which visited Iraq for talks on border issues, exchange of war prisoners and arrangement of pilgrimage tours between the two countries returned home Wednesday night.

While in Iraq, the delegation handed over a list containing the names of several thousands of Iranian war prisoners not yet repatriated to Iraqi officials.

The fate of hundreds of the Iranian POWs has been clarified with the two countries agreeing to continue cooperation to determine the destiny of the others.

The two sides have also made preliminary agreements to settle their remaining border issues and to this end an Iraqi delegation is expected here next week to finalize the agreements.

The Iranian and Iraqi delegations have discussed in details the issue of pilgrimage trips to the holy sanctuaries located in both countries, reaching some agreements in principle and agreeing to resume talks within the next two weeks to finalize the agreements.

More on Polish Deputy Foreign Minister's Visit

Majewski Meets Velayati

LD0212183690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Jon Majewski, who is visiting Tehran, met Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Velayati today, and presented a report on the latest developments in Poland, that country's foreign policy, its stand on the Persian Gulf crisis, and its support for the UN resolutions and economic sanctions against Iraq, He also announced the readiness of Poland's foreign minister to visit Iran early in the Christian new year.

During this meeting, Mr. Velayati referred to the historical relations between Iran and Poland, and expressed the hope that political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the two ocuntries will continue and expand. The foreign affairs minister also welcomed the recent developments and the free elections in Poland, and wishes the Polish people success.

The visiting Polish deputy foreign minister today also held his first round of talks with Mr. Va'ezi, the Euro-American affairs deputy of the Foreign Ministry. During these talks they exchanged views on issues related to the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural spheres. In view of the good relations between the two countries, they discussed an exchange of visits between the two countries at a high level, cultural cooperation, and economic cooperation in the spheres of energy and the steel industry.

Industries Minister Discusses Cooperation

LD0312183390 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—Heavy Industries Minister Nezhad-Hoseynian discussed expansion of economic ties with Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Majewski, here Monday.

Nezhad-Hoseynian referred to the two countries' collaboration in the manufacture of mining machinery and bulldozers, said prospects are bright for further growth of mutual industrial ties in view of Iran's first 5 year plan (started March this year).

The Polish official thought on the same lines, and expressed hope that the changing atmosphere in Poland would prove beneficial for the growth of economic relations with the Islamic Republic.

Majewski Departs

LD0412124890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Jon Majewski, deputy foreign minister of Poland, conducted the second round of talks with his Iranian counterpart yesterday afternoon. The Polish deputy foreign minister, while referring to current developments in Europe, notably Eastern Europe, described at these talks the foreign policy of his country vis-a-vis issues faced by Europeans and commented on the latest meeting of the heads of European states in Paris. Then Mr. Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister of our country, pointing to the regional policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the peace trend between Iran and Iraq while separating this issue from the Kuwait crisis, explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand toward the crisis in the region and stressed regional cooperation aimed at solving the crisis and maintaining the security of the region. He also emphasized that foreign forces should withdraw from the sensitive Persian Gulf region. The Polish deputy foreign minister left Tehran for his country this morning.

Velayati Expresses Satisfaction With Sudanese Ties

LD0412184490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Sudan's education minister today met Foreign Minister Velayati and said: The Islamic revolution of Iran was a source of fundamental changes in the Islamic world.

'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, in expressing the attention and affection of the Sudanese people and Government for the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, called for expanding bilateral relations.

In response Velayati expressed his thanks for the fraternal sentiments of the Sudanese people and Government and his satisfaction at the development of bilateral relations, saying: Good foundations have been laid in the relations between the two countries.

RESALAT Report on 4 Nov 90 Majles Session

PM0512120290 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Nov 90 p 5

[Text]

Report From Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles

Legal and parliamentary section—The Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

The session was preceded by speeches by deputies from Mamasani, Dasht-e Azadegan and Tehran.

Below is the text of the pre-agenda speeches and the details of the debate for our respected readers.

Abdol Rasul Musavi, Deputy for the People of Mamasani: We Can Only Achieve the Lofty Aims of Our Revolution With Unity

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Seyyed Abdol Rasul Musavi from the constituency of Mamasani.

He urged Muslims to display patience, caution, and unity and added: Only with unity can we achieve the lofty goals of our revolution, which are to free all mankind, to eliminate all aggression and devilish thoughts, and to establish the rule of God on earth.

He added: The holy day of 4 November brings back memories of the great heights reached throughout the history of the proud Islamic revolution. It is the national day of struggle against world aggression headed by the criminal United States, the day of the imam's banishment because he asked for justice, the martyrdom of students who staged a revolt in the university, the capture of the U.S. den of spies [U.S. Embassy in Tehran], and the breaking of the American idol under the leadership of a single combatant cleric and the efforts of the heroic students following the imam's line. With revolutionary force and attack as well as political awareness, they revealed the plot to give the future of the revolution to those who liked the United States. With a great deal of effort and hardship, they revealed the documents of this crime in this den of spies. They created a revolution which lit the heart of the imam of the ummah. The greatness and the value of the work that they did was shown in the bond of affection that he felt for them when he told them: "The value of what you have done in the world is that you have destroyed this pagan god that they created, this huge god which was affecting all countries of the world. This had a political aspect and value which makes all other values seem small in comparison. These people who think that because of these actions we have been placed in difficulty are mistaken, even though they mean no harm. Of course, there are some elements who consider you pro-American. They also say that our revolutionary guards are reactionary and pro-American. These elements are unworthy and very insignificant."

He commented on the reopening of the British Embassy as follows: I say to the government in criticism that I personally see no good coming from a British presence here, since they are most definitely worse than the United States, especially at the level of an embassy. If the respected president and the respected foreign minister see any good coming from this action, would they please make it clear to the deputies and to the people.

He continued: Now that the respected government of the Islamic Republic—with 10 years' experience of war and confronting problems—has, thank God, raised its head as a working government, it is expected to act quickly, responsibly, steadfastly, and effectively in solving the people's problems, which includes reducing the price of necessities, lowering inflation, and preventing a rise in unemployment.

Public security, especially in the eastern and western provinces, needs speedy and steadfast action. The country's administrative machinery does not have the mechanism to solve the people's problems. There are many serious cases of administrative corruption and abuse of personal contacts which a revolutionary society cannot tolerate and does not expect. The situation is such that the efforts of those who work hard in the executive branch, those who work themselves almost to death, are crushed and nullified by the workings of the patronage system—who you know, personal recommendations, and other illogical connections. In general the country's administrative system needs a good shake-up. It is hoped that the efforts of the respected president and the Cabinet, with the cooperation of our revolutionary people, will resolve these issues. God willing, our country's executive system will be reorganized in line with the values that we have established during the revolution. He added: Not only are we not against capitalists who invest their money in production units, creating jobs in the country, and who solve some of the nation's problems sympathetically, but we support them and encourage any type of help and support that the government may want to give them. What we are all against, what those who care for iran and the revolution should also be against, are those capitalists who set traps with their money to suck the money from the people like leeches. By wasting, by encouraging too much consumer spending in the country, they create differences between levels of society, or else they throw our peoples' money into the pockets of the revolution's enemies abroad.

He concluded by advising the government and its ministers in charge of industry not to allow the pressure of internal demand to force them into spending hard currency on foreign purchases. Instead they must improve the thoughts and industrial capabilities of the country's youth, despite all the bitterness and hardship that this may involve. In the final analysis, in order to achieve real independence and freedom, most basic needs must be provided through internal production.

Mr. Musavi continued: It should not be the case that if there are more ministers in the Cabinet from one province or if the sensitive posts or influential jobs are given to people from one province, that province's work goes ahead faster. Over years Fars Province has received rough treatment. Basic heavy industries which create jobs have not been established in any way in that province. Forget about railroads and such; even the main roads that link this province's center to Tehran have not been created. It is natural, then, that connected towns and villages which are deprived, such as Mamasani, have been left far behind.

The Majles deputy from Mamasani commented on the difficulties faced by his constituency and asked officials to look into these issues.

He also asked the head of the judiciary to look into the issue of justice in Mamasani.

He ended his speech by commenting on the fact that we are about to organize the national budget for 1991 in the Cabinet. He said: We ask that the budget for deprived areas of the country be considerably increased so that basic and fundamental action can be taken to create the proper technical foundations in order to eliminate poverty and deprivation from these areas.

Jasem Jadari, Deputy from Dasht-e Azadegan

Our people can only confront heresy and evil if they are united and if they follow the leader.

The second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Jadari from the constituency of Dahst-e Azadegan. In his speech he commented on the events of 4 November, the banishment of the imam, and the killing of the students. He talked about the capture of the den of spies and added: From the start of the second revolution—the capture of the den of spies of the world-engulfing United States—some people tried to portray this Islamic and revolutionary action as null and void by sullying the image of those who had captured the place. But we saw how the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—frequently supported and thanked the students who followed his line. At this time, I would like to congratulate the brave Iranian people and the respected leader on the occasion of the anniversary of the second revolution. I would also like to congratulate Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha and our dear brother Mr. Asqar-zadeh—the spokesman for the students who followed the imam's line—who was also one of the people who planned the capture of the den of spies, both of whom were always received with affection by the imam.

The deputy for the people of Dasht-e Azadegan said that continued struggle against the United States depends on unity and obeying the leader. He said: Today all of us must stand united behind the leader, this rightful heir to the imam and the symbol of struggle against the great Satan, to continue the great path of the flag-bearer of struggle against the world-engulfing United States. Our issue with the United States is one of basic existence.

Right and wrong, value and countervalue have never come together. There has always been this struggle since time began, and until justice rules and until cruelty and bullying are destroyed, this struggle will continue.

The speaker then talked about the crimes of the Zionists in occupied Palestine and the U.S. presence in the holy land where the message of God was delivered to earth. He said: The world-engulfing United States has today attacked the Persian Gulf under the guise of loving humanity and defeating aggression and has trampled the land where God's message was delivered. The Muslims' foremost place of prayer is also in the hands of the Zionists. On the one hand, the children of the Palestinian uprising are being massacred in great numbers and on the other hand the land where the message of God was delivered has fallen into the hands of those who abuse peoples' rights. The world-engulfing United States must realize that our patient and resisting people know that in the final analysis, all these games are intended to counter the Islamic revolution and to crush freedom movements, even if it has come without permission with the excuse of eliminating aggression. Without a doubt, our people are familiar with such tricks and are fully aware and ready to defend their revolutionary values. Of course, our people can only confront heresy if we are united behind the great leader.

Without a doubt, group-oriented behavior and movements as well as political games will cause a weakening in our people and will cause our ranks to be infiltrated. We hope that with the awareness of the great and respected leader and the dedicated people, these sad events of the past will not be repeated again, so that all of us can take steps together to achieve the lofty goals of the founder of the Islamic Republic.

In another section of his speech, the speaker commented on examining the economic situation and meeting the people's needs. He added: Giving interviews and quoting figures never has solved and never will solve problems. I know many people who have come to me saying that their children have not gone to school because they could not provide pens and paper for them.

Refugees in our cities lead a pitiful life, relying on their own strength and financial aid of 4,000 rials. If these people return to their own areas they will manage to run their lives, but despite lengthy discussions and meetings with officials, unfortunately they have not yet gained permission to go back. Millions of dollars are spent to buy cattle, while at the same time thousands of cattle are wasted for the war refugees in the war-zone. [sentence as published]

Dozens of hours of discussions and political talks are held while nothing is done to examine the rightful demands of people in the border and tribal areas, who say that they have not seen a judge for two years. I have warned a dozen times that this is a border and tribal area where people do not have adequate security but nothing has been done. I hope that people will not suffer any further harm.

The speaker concluded by thanking the deputy president in charge of executive affairs for his efforts in providing credit for reconstruction.

Hoseyn Mozaffari-nejad

The last pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Mozaffari-nejad, the deputy from Tehran. At the beginning of his speech he recalled the anniversary of the day the imam was banished, the day of the students, and the anniversary of the capture of the den of spies by the students who followed the imam's line. He extended his greetings on the occasion of this holy day to the hidden imam—may God expedite his return—the leader, the Muslim people of Iran, especially the students who followed the imam's line, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Muavi Kho'iniha and Mr. Asqar-zadeh.

The speaker also quoted from the imam's statement concerning teaching and education and said: If we saw on 4 November students being dragged through their own blood, it is because they wrote in their own blood on the streets that they wanted freedom, independence, and an Islamic republic and painted a picture of the country's future.

The people's deputy from Tehran read from the imam's statements and mentioned the effects of the revolutionary action of the students following the imam's line in capturing the den of spies. He added:

1. One of the effects was that this action became a model for youth in other countries, especially Islamic ones. This is why after the capture of the den of spies we saw Muslim youth in Lebanon, both girls and boys, rebelling against the United States and Israel and committing those revolutionary acts. With five tons of TNT they rushed into the hearts of the Americans and the Zionists and made America very small and helpless, just as the United States was made small and helpless in the capture of the nest of spies—and they were driven from Lebanon.

2. The other effect was that the provisional government, which had come to power as an Islamic government, left the path of the people and the imam of ummah and engaged in secret negotiation with Americans, such as Brzezinski, and their lackies, which was below the dignity of the revolution and the people. With their action, the students revealed what lay behind the curtains and showed that Islamic Iran was no place for compromise.

3. Also, at the time when the den of spies was captured the Tudeh Party, the Fada'iyan guerrillas (Majority and Minority groups), nationalists, liberals, the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq group], those who were like stones [as published] the Hojjatiyeh group and the pro-Westerners all had some sort of link with this den of spies. We even saw that apparently very holy people had a hand in planning coups and they wanted to remove the

beating heart of the Islamic ummah, who was the imam. We saw how their documents were discovered at the den of spies.

He said the biggest determining element in the victory of the students following the line of the imam was the steadfast and rapid support of the imam—peace be unto him—for this group. He added: Before the imam, there were those who were sulking and they were not supporting the act. We even saw how some elements from the provisional government were hitting out against these dear ones. This is where the imam, with his strong defense, gave constant support to them and others like them.

The speaker added: Just as the imam trusted the hezbollah students and the Muslim students following the line of the imam, just as he supported them like he did, we should know that those who are making the future of the country, those on whom rebuilding, technology, and progress depends more than any others, these dear people should be relied on. Especially on holy occasions which directly affected with the students themselves, we should hand over the running of affairs to these dear ones and we should cooperate with them.

Mr. Mozaffari-nejad continued his speech by giving the world- engulfers a warning and stressed: Those who captured the den of spies and the people whose children captured the center of U.S. corruption, will not permit—either in the long-term or in the short-term—the United States to stay in the region. They will turn the Persian Gulf into a graveyard for the Americans. Just as the leader said, we consider ourselves martyrs in this path and we are proud of martyrdom. We will fight against the Zionists who are the savage servants of the Americans and against Americans themselves, alongside the children of Lebanon and Palestine and we shall send the United States to hell and destruction.

The people's deputy from Tehran continued:

As a sign of the innocence of hezbollah students, I convey my greetings to Mehrdad Kowkabi [an Iranian student in prison in Britain], this dignified prisoner, on the occasion of the capture of the den of spies. The British Government should know that the Muslim students are those same ones who dragged the United States through the dirt. This is why they should beware and know what sort of nation they are up against.

The Bills Passed

According to a report by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent continued discussion on the plan to form water and sewage work companies was the first item on the agenda of the Majles.

Item 11 - Keeping in mind the population growth in the cities and the need to expand the facilities, also keeping in mind the fact that the fees received from those who use the services, installation fees received from new applicants, and the level of government investment in the growth of water and sewage works are not enough to provide for adequate growth in the facilities, permission is granted to make the following investments.

The share of the cost of investment in the water and sewage works for cities and newly-constructed urban developments and well as allocations for cities based on the number of buildings, both domestic and other, will be paid by the Ministry of Energy through appropriate organizations in accordance with approved invoices.

Item 12 - The hard currency needed by these companies will be provided under its own separate heading within the national budget, in accordance with a demand set forth by the ministry of energy each year.

Item 13 - Moving personnel to and giving them tours of duty from ministries and government organizations to water and sewage works is permitted.

Item 14 - The water and sewage companies that are the subject of this bill can, for the purpose of their welfare work, use the legal bill dealing with the purchase of property, in order to carry out their general and welfare programs. They can also use the law dealing with urban land and other laws with regard to the purchase of property in order to carry out the government's general work.

The minister of energy will be the authority that decides the nature of the urgency and necessity of the subject mentioned in Item 9 of the law dealing with the purchase of property mentioned above.

Item 15 - Having a network for water and sewage are necessary components of the same service. All owners of property within the boundary of the plan to collect and get rid of sewage have the duty to hand over to the appropriate authority, within the deadline set by the water and sewage works, a request for the supply of a sewage pipe linked to the main network for their property and they have to agree to pay the cost. Otherwise the water and sewage works' companies will have the right to cut off the water supply to such properties.

Getting the water connected again will then depend on a request to become linked to the main sewage network and having to pay the full cost.

Item 16 - Up until the formation of these companies which are the subjects of this law, the water authorities in cities, the gathering and removal of sewage, and the plans and continuation of plans that are currently underway, continue to be in the hands of those organization which are responsible for them now.

Item 17 - In order to carry out the tasks in terms of headquarters' activity, support work, technical, research, provisional and training work for the companies that are the subjects of this law, the water engineering unit linked to the Ministry of Energy will be renamed the national water and sewage engineering company. Following corrections made by Cabinet ministers to the existing charter, they will take over these duties.

The managing director of this company will be deputy minister of energy in charge of water and sewage.

Item 18 - The executive orders of this law will be prepared by the Ministry of Energy and approved by the Cabinet.

Item 19 - From the time that this law becomes official, all laws that contradict it, including Footnote 2 of Article 21 of the law dealing with water distribution, will be declared null and void.

Yesterday's open session of the Majles continued with a report from the committee in charge of agriculture and rural welfare with regard to correcting the legal plan to support local cattle production which had come under a second round of criticism by the Council of Guardians. This was discussed and later approved.

According to this bill the following text will be added to the bottom of Footnote 2 of this law:

Any possible profit or loss resulting from the implementation of this law in the current year will be provided out of the savings made in hard currency expenditure (the rial value calculated on the day at a competitive rate) and in future years this will be provided from the increase in the price of imported fodder.

The Majles will have an open session tomorrow morning.

The Letter from Majles Deputies on the Occasion of the National Day of Struggle Against World Aggression Headed by the World-Engulfing United States

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

The fourth of November is the glorious anniversary of the second revolution of the Iranian people which, according to the great prediction of the banner-holder of struggle against aggression and the United States, Imam Khomeyni—may God expedite his passage to paradise—was a revolution greater than the first one. Greetings to that departed leader, the dedicated and resisting Islamic ummah, the respected leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i, and its dedicated creators, the students following the line of the imam.

Capture of the U.S. den of spies in Iran was the peak of the realization of a nonstop holy struggle which the great imam had started against the source of corruption and destruction, the United States, from the first days of the Islamic movement.

Resisting the bullying and the crimes of the United States and other world aggressors makes up the core of the Islamic revolution. The downfall of the cruel regime of the Shah was a stage in this holy and victorious struggle. This holy crusade will continue until such time that the aggressive hands of the United States and its allies are prevented from reaching the peoples and the oppressed nations in the world, especially Islamic countries. To presume that relations between Iran and the United States were severed only because of the great incident of the capture of the den of spies, that they may be repaired with time and with the solving of issues, is a false presumption. These assumptions come from the sick thinking of the pro-Western elements who have been bewitched by the devilish powers of the United States and its allies. This is the same sick line of thinking which was not able to comprehend the greatness of the second revolution. The dear imam stood firmly against them and continued to praise this everlasting event and its creators.

The ceremonies to mark the anniversary of 4 November are held this year under conditions when world aggression headed by the world-engulfing United States has brought its disgraceful and widespread military presence to the Islamic region of the Middle East. They are now making a joke of the land where God's message was delivered and, with the help of Al Sa'ud and Fahd himself, this evil lackey who has no will of his own, it has put in danger the independence of the region's countries. In the shadow of their noisy propaganda, the innocent and unarmed Palestinian people are massacred by the corrupt Zionist regime. There are dangerous and coordinated plots hatched in the aggressive countries by the rich and powerful of the world and court-clergy against the pure Islam of the Prophet—peace be unto him and his family—and Islamic liberation movements. Without a doubt their goal is to weaken and destroy the source of the Islamic revolution, which is the Islamic Republic of Iran.

So the duty of the respected officials, the policymakers of the regime and the great ummah of Iran is very great, heavy, and sensitive. The expectation of Muslims and freedom-lovers of the world from the Islamic revolution is a special expectation. This is why we deputies of the Islamic Majles invite the whole brave and great nation of Iran to participate in the ceremonies marking 4 November. We announce that we can resist the United States and the serious threats posed by world aggression against Islam through keeping our promise and acting out the ideals of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and keeping the basic slogans of the movement, most important of all the slogan of "Death to America." The unity of the Islamic ummah in the shadow of the velayat-e faqih, carrying out the shining decrees of the Koran in defending the oppressed and innocent, and the holy crusade against heretics and cruel people are the only ways to preserve the dignity and greatness of Islam and Islamic Iran.

Meaningful Support!

Following the remarks made by the respected leader with regard to the importance of the role of the Majles and warning a few "angry and irresponsible" deputies, we have witnessed the widespread support of various groups of people in the towns of Qom, Tehran, Mashhad and so forth throughout the country.

Ayatollah Khamene'i prevented the gathering of people in front of the Majles and invited the people to invest their energy and their effort in "safeguarding unity," "uniting their words," and "expanding kindness and brotherhood" between the ranks and the dedicated forces of the regime. In this manner he completed his dedication to the Majles.

Unfortunately following this invitation we saw some "dissenting speeches" by some deputies who stood to openly support those same people who had been addressed by the leader.

The support of these people for one or two deputies comes at important historic occasions such as the capture of the den of spies. It is important to note that a look at the revolution's past history indicates that people's "revolutionary background" has never been able to compensate for their opposition to the regime and the values of the revolution. Therefore today, one cannot use this same "background" to defend those people who, like the spokesman from radio Israel, have taken action to weaken the regime.

This group of deputies must be answerable to the people. What are they looking for and what are their goals?

They should know that with such support not only do they not remove the sins of Radio Israel's spokesmen, they make themselves partners of their actions, putting a black mark on their own religious and political record.

We place great importance on the Majles, and quite the reverse of what some writers believe, we are not in favor of factionalism and wiping the slate clean in this manner. In accordance with our mission in the media, we see it to be our duty to rise in defense of our values when there is aggression against the regime.

[Signed] Legal and Parliamentary Section.

Pakistan

Government To Send Troops to UAE 'In Principle'

BK0512131690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 5 (AFP)—Pakistani has decided in principle to send a contingent of troops to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Foreign Ministry officials here said Wednesday.

They said discussions were underway to determine the strength of the contingent which will not exceed 5,000.

The decision followed talks between Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan in Abu Dhabi last month.

Pakistan already has 2,000 troops in Saudi Arabia, which was the first Gulf Arab state to request military assistance from this country after the August 2 Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. It had committed 5,000 troops to the multinational military buildup in the kingdom and officials here said preparations were being made to send the remaining 3,000.

A spokesman of the foreign office here confirmed on Saturday that the government had decided in principle to send more troops to Saudi Arabia in addition to the initial commitment.

The influential Pakistani daily DAWN said Wednesday Bahrain had also requested Pakistani troops, but the report was not confirmed by foreign office officials.

The report quoted unidentified official sources as saying "we cannot overlook the requests of our highly trusted Islamic friends."

A special envoy of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is now in the Gulf to discuss further military cooperation and Pakistan's needs for economic assistance, the report said.

The envoy, Chaudhury Nisar Ali Khan, minister for petroleum and natural resources, left here last Thursday carring special messages from Mr. Sharif for the Saudi and UAE leaders.

Pakistan, which has been hit hard economically by the Gulf crisis, is seeking 500 million dollars in urgent economic assistance from Saudi Arabia, the DAWN report said.

President Submits New Reference Against Bhutto

BK0612102990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 6—The President of Pakistan has submitted a reference regarding irregular appointments by the former Prime Minister of Pakistan in the Special Court consisting of justice Rashid Aziz Khan.

The reference is made under Article 4 of the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies (disqualification for membership) Order 1977 (PPO No. 17 of 1977).

The reference is supported by a concise statement of facts about the charges levelled against former Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto. The charges are as follows: i) Disregarded provisions of the Civil Servants Act, 1973, and rules and regulations there under, particularly the orders in matters of initial appointments; ii) The Placement Bureau and its conduct and the use to which it was put and appointment of Mrs B.A. Qureshi as its Chief on the contract basis for three years; iii) Nominations by the Prime Minister or the Placement Bureau by placing ban on fresh recruitment; iv) Issued a directive that where a nomination to a vacant post had not been made in the manner described in iii) above, and the post had been inadvertently advertised, such advertisement would be withdrawn; and v) Made appointments direct or through the Placement Bureau on the recommendations of MNAs [Members of National Assembly]/MPAs [Member of Provincial Assembly]/Advisers Ministers from among party workers and others, thus denying opportunity of employment to qualified people through normal channels of recruitment.

Government Agrees to Inspection of Nuclear Site

BK0612103390 Lahore THE NATION in English 6 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by Mariana Babar]

[Text] Islamabad—"It is pure coincidence that the Cabinet has given its approval to international inspection of a mini-nuclear reactor laboratory when there is American pressure on the Government of Pakistan regarding its nuclear programme," said Munir Ahmed Khan, Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, while responding to reports that the Cabinet on December 3 had taken this step in the face of increasing pressure from the United States of America.

A PPP [Pakistan People's Party] spokesman Shafqar Mehmood, however, criticised this step of the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Iktehad] government saying: "The IJI has buckled under US pressure although they criticised us for doing so. And what about sovereignty of which the IJI was making tall claims? The IJI government has given in to every pressure since they took over."

When contacted, a spokesman of the Foreign Office said that the step of the Cabinet was of routine nature.

While talking to THE NATION, Munir Ahmed clarified that PINSTECH [Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology] already had a reactor installed under IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguards and the present addition is a new one given by the Chinese government. "It follows that this should also be put under international safeguards," he said.

"This reactor was sent by China last year and it was agreed with the Chinese at the time that the international agency would inspect it. This reactor uses fuel which is less than one kilogram and is not normally subjected to such safeguards. We voluntarily asked for these safeguards."

Mujahidin Leader Quits Seven Party Alliance

BK0612103190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 5—One of the seven Afghan Mujahidin groups struggling against pro-Moscow Najibullah government in Afghanistan has announced dissociation from the senior leadership of the Mujahidin. The reason is said to be the diferences that have emerged over the new election plan.

The Hezb-e-Eslami leader, Yunus Khalis in a statement in Ninagarhar, province of Afghanistan, said he opposed every election plan that gives the right of franchise to every one.

Sri Lanka

Minister Contradicts Speaker on Israeli Advisors

BK0612131690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1228 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Colombo, Dec 6 (AFP)—A senior Sri Lankan minister Thursday contradicted the speaker of parliament who had charged that Israel still maintained 10 military advisors in the country.

State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said speaker Mohamed Hanifa Mohamed had spoken "out of turn" and stressed there were no Israeli experts in the island.

Mr. Mohamed in an interview with a local newspaper had charged there were 10 Israelis advising the Sri Lankan military on their drive against Tamil guerrillas in the island's northeast.

"The speaker had talked out of turn. No one should speak out of turn regarding military matters. There are no Israeli military advisors in the country," the minister told reporters at the weekly post-cabinet press briefing.

The government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa in April closed down an Israeli interest section maintained under the American Embassy in Colombo since 1985 when Sri Lanka sought help from Israel to counter Tamil insurgency.

Israeli involvement in Sri Lanka is the subject of a presidential committee of inquiry.

Premadasa Greets British Prime Minister Major

BK3011124290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa has sent a message of congratulations and good wishes to Right Honorable John Major, the new prime minister of Britain. He has stated that under the new British prime minister's inspiring leadership, Britain will continue to progress and play a leading role in the international community and the Commonwealth nations. He has extended his personal good wishes and the wishes of the people and the government of Sri Lanka for the success during his tenure in high office. The president has stated that he has no doubt that the excellent and traditional friendly relations between the two countries will be further strengthened.